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Meadowlark

A JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS BIRDS

Volume 9, Number 1 *2000*

Illinois Ornithological Society

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President's Message

Another spring migration is winding down as has my term as your President. At our recent annual meeting at Illinois Beach State Park (May 19-21) the Board elected Geoff Williamson as President. I congratulate and thank Geoff for agreeing to accept this challenge. I urge each of you to support Geoff and the Board as you did me. Details of the meeting may be found in our "Wings-Over-The-Prairie," newsletter. It was a pleasure serving the Society as President. I have not left the Board and will continue serving through my term. I want to thank all of you and the Board for all the trust and support you have given me during my tenure. Special thanks go to Denis Bohlm, Recording Secretary and our Editor-in-Chief, Sheryl DeVore for all their support, prodding, and seeing that things got done in a timely manner.

You have heard me speak about CARA before and I don't want to let this last opportunity slip by without giving you an update. Many of you already know this important funding bill was passed out of the House by 3:1 margin. The bill now awaits Senate action in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Until this bill, S. 2123, reaches the Senate floor and is approved, our fight is not over. We still need you to write letters, call, send Faxes and Emails to our two Senators urging their support for S. 2123.

This millennium issue has some interesting articles on Illinois bird populations during the past 100 years. Perhaps if we had the knowledge base and conservation ethic, habitat protection measures, management programs and funding that we have today — we might have less endangered, extirpated and extent birds, such as the Carolina Parakeet. We might be seeing live ones and photographs rather than drawings as on our cover. Conservation, education, and management programs require money and that is one of the reasons passage of CARA is so critical. When passed it will fund habitat protection, management programs, help expand our knowledge base through research and perhaps more importantly expand our conservation education efforts. Without a knowledgeable, caring public, the best conservation and management programs will not be effective and we might have more, not less declining bird populations. It is up to us, fellow birders, working together to get CARA through the Senate. Time is short and we have important work to get done. Protect our birds and birding habitat. Contact our Senators and get CARA passed!

Thanks again for all your support and good birding

Bob Montgomery

Visit Our Website at: http://www.chias.org/ios

Letter from the editor

Reflections on nine years

Since the founding of IOS nearly a decade ago, I have worked with two Presidents, Eric Walters and Bob Montgomery, and now I'll be working with a third, Geoff Williamson. As we enter a new millennium and another decade of producing *Meadowlark*, the newsletter and other publications, I'd like to reflect on the past and the future. More than 10 years ago, Eric Walters, Dave Johnson, and several other folks sat down to talk about IOS and what we might offer the state's birding community. We had maybe one half-written article, a couple of photographs, a drawing, and someone willing to layout our first issue of Meadowlark, my friend, Walter Marcisz. I still remember Dave Johnson and I dancing around when the first issue came out (and I shudder now when I look at it, because there was so much we didn't know about how to put together a journal.) Eric was a dreamer who knew how to make dreams come true (and find photos and drawings and articles and volunteers!) We should never forget our founding president. Without him, we wouldn't be here.

Next came Bob Montgomery. Under Bob's leadership, we focused even more on habitat protection, and we produced a new state checklist (thank you IORC!), a new state field card, and we got a Web site up (thanks to Mary Hennen and the Chicago Academy of Sciences). We also worked (especially Dave Johnson) to improve our membership base. And our Wings Over The Prairie really started to sail — thanks to Denis Bohm, our editor! Bob Montgomery was a witty, caring, professional President, and I shall miss his leadership, and will be forever grateful for his support.

Now, a new President, Geoff Williamson, joins us. As an IOS Board Member, Geoff worked the past few years to raise awareness of IOS as well as secure more funds. His Illinois Big Days in two years have raised over $1,500. In recent Board meetings, we have also talked about education programs and scholarships for researchers. As our finances improve (thanks to many folks including our treasurer Michael Hogg), Geoff will be an excellent leader to guide us through our next growing phase.

There are so many more people who have made these nine years worth the many headaches. You all know who you are. I don't have space to name you all, but thank you! And hey, folks — isn't it time you got more involved with IOS? Lead field trips. Help organize educational activities. Help with a scholarship fund. Write articles. Take photos. Draw illustrations. Raise money. Write book reports. We need you!

Sheryl DeVore

MEADOWLARK

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Birding in the New Millennium

An Essay by Christine Williamson

THE CAROLINA PARAKEET: GONEFOREVER

Denis Kania drew the cover illustration of the extinct Carolina Parakeet (Conuropsis carolinensis), once a common resident in southern Illinois and fairly common farther north. The boldly colored yellow and green bird nested and roosted in hollow trees, particularly sycamores, according to H. David Bohlen's "The Birds of Illinois" (1989). The state's final record came from the Lake Michigan shoreline near Chicago on 11 June 1912, according to Arthur Cleveland Bent's Life history series. The bird became extinct, in part, due to its habit of remaining in the vicinity of hunters even as they shot at the species. A lack of knowledge about the bird, both by people and ornithologists of the day, also probably led to its demise. Though we know much more now about birds and habitat today, the Carolina Parakeet symbolizes an important and timeless lesson: we don't yet know it all. The science of restoration is young. Our careful consideration is needed as we work to protect birds and their habitats.

— Sheryl DeVore

You still have time to resolve to improve your birding life in the new millennium (remember that it doesn't officially start until next year). But bear in mind two certainties: Nothing ever changes and nothing stays the same. Like all bird watching humans before you, over the next 100 years (and younger readers may well have that much time ahead of them) you will want to see more birds, closer, in greater detail and in more comfort than you can today. You will bemoan that bird numbers and species are decreasing; in short, you will long for the good old days of the 1980s and 1990s.

It was the same in the 1790s when New Englanders complained they saw fewer turkeys strutting around, and the hunting of game birds was first regulated. What will change are the creature comforts that will allow you to achieve your twin goals of pumping up your life or state list and being comfortable while you do it. Technical advances in optics, video, computer hardware, software and CD-ROMs, clothing, foot gear, bird-feeders, communications, travel, hearing aids, K to 12 environmental education programs, and even medical advances like Celebrex for arthritic joints, will get people out in the field birding younger and keep them out there to a truly advanced age.

The past informs the future

To predict what birding in the new millennium will be like, it's useful to take a quick look backward at the history of bird watching in North America. One thing is certain. American birders in the 21st century will never see sights such as this description of Passenger Pigeons by New Englander, William Woods, in about 1630: "I have seen them fly as if the Ayerie regiment had beene Pigeons; seeing neyther beginning for ending, length, or breadth of these Million of Millions."

No matter how far they travel around the globe, only a tiny number of new millennium birders will be privileged enough to find an undiscovered bird species or to explore uncharted territory. As Jeff Greenwald wrote in the millennium issue of Sierra magazine (January/February 2000): "A planet that was for millennia untamed - defined by infinite unknowns, pristine wildlands, and indigenous cultures - now seems obsessed with universal accessibility." Certainly birders like the notion of accessibility - the ability to access even very remote places quite easily in order to see birds. But what will be missing in the next 100 years and beyond is the feverish dedication of the earliest cataloguers of North American birds – Alexander Wilson, John James Audubon, Mark Catesby, Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Smith Barton, Lewis and Clark and others – who first found, named, shot, drew, etched, engraved, and described the distribution and

habits of North American birds. If you have birded the tropics, you'll know what it's like to use a bad field guide, or one that's not quite right for the immediate area you are in. But imagine stepping foot on a continent filled with birds without a field guide of any kind and where many of the birds were unnamed!

It is evident from their writings that these 18th and 19th century explorers understood the monumental importance of bird species check lists and were filled with a sense of urgency. Sprawl began to move westward immediately with the expansion of the original American colonies, and early bird scientists knew habitat and hence birds, was already disappearing as early as the 1790s.

The first true field guide to North American birds was Mark Catesby's "The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands," which was published between 1731 and 1743. The first American ornithological monograph was written by Benjamin Smith Barton in 1799 and was based on his migration notes made between March 1791 and February 1792. The father of American ornithology, Alexander Wilson, embarked on the monumental task in 1804 of cataloguing the birds around Philadelphia into a book of engravings, at a time when perhaps not even one dozen species had been described in a scientific manner and there had been few attempts to collect data about distribution and habitats. Wilson didn't even know the common names of many of the birds he shot for his collection and had to ask the engraver to write the names of birds he had drawn in pencil on the plates so he could do some double-checking before publication of his seminal work, American Ornithology. As Robert Henry Welker pointed out in his 1955 book, "Birds & Men: American Birds in Science, Art, Literature, and Conservation 1800 - 1900," to take but one example: Wilson's Gold-winged Woodpecker, the common and distinctive flicker, was known then (as it is now) around Philadelphia by various local names - in the `Dutch country around Philadelphia as Gehlschpecht, Grieschpecht, or Holsschpecht, elsewhere as High-hole, Hittock, Flicker, Piut. Linnaeus' system of scientific species classification was so new at the beginning of the 19th century, that Wilson had to some extent make it up as he went along in his descriptions of the relationships between 262 different North American birds found around Philadelphia. Thirty-nine of those species were newly described by Wilson.

From Wilson to Audubon to Lewis and Clark and other western scientific expeditions, to poets Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, the pursuit of bird knowledge in the19th century followed the path of pioneer settlers and explorers.

Fast forward to 1912 to the second printing of Frank M. Chapman's field guide, "The Birds of Eastern North America." Chapman notes with some amazement the growth of the hobby of birdwatching in the preface: It is the growth of this interest (in bird study) that has chiefly distinguished the past two decades... In the history of North American ornithology, therefore, this period may well stand as the Epoch of Popular Bird Study. Where, in 1895, there was one person who could claim acquaintance with our commoner birds, today there are hundreds; and the plea for the development of our inherent love of birds, which was made in the first edition of the Handbook (in 1895) has been answered with an effectiveness few would have predicted.

Chapman went on to say that it only required opportunity for bird watching to really take off in the early twentieth century; by opportunity, Chapman meant readily available popular manuals of bird study, which sold in

Sandhill Crane numbers dipped so low in the 20th century that they no longer bred in Illinois or passed through during migration. Today they breed once again in northern Illinois. What is the fate of this state-threatened species in the new millennium? Photo taken by Dennis Oehmke on 28 February 1998 just southwest of Petersburg, Illinois.

the hundreds of thousands; the formation of bird clubs and bird conservation organizations like the National Audubon Society; bird identification classes; through popular lectures and magazines and the general press, which could now incorporate more photography; through increased museum facilities; and a closer relationship between scientific ornithologists and amateur birders.

Leaping forward

Chapman would have been delighted to have leapt forward 88 years to the year 2000 to find the ranks of Americans who classify themselves as bird watchers swelled to millions. Most of those millions of birders probably classify themselves apart from those who look upon them (birds) as items of millenary and those who are the makers of ornithological systems, who ransack the world for specimens, and who have no doubt that the chief end of a bird is to be named and catalogued, as described in 1885 by Bradford Torrey in his collection of essays, "Birds in the Bush."

Northern Harrier fledglings at Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Area in central Illinois. This photo was taken by Steven D. Bailey more than a decade ago. What will become of this state-endangered species in the new millennium?

"Somewhere between these two extremes comes the person whose interest in birds is friendly rather than scientific; who has little taste for shooting; and an aversion for dissecting; who delights in the living creatures themselves and counts a bird in the bush worth two in the hand," Torrey concluded.

So what will the next 50 or 100 years bring to the person with friendly interest in birds?

Perhaps the biggest change for birders in recent years has been the computer and the Internet. Even the most recalcitrant opponent of PC-based birding I know, quietly and without fanfare, sent me an email recently. It was his quiet acceptance of the inevitable. Soon, few if any birders will be unconnected from the Internet and fewer will still keep their bird lists on paper.

Starting with the basics of identification, a new birder in the year 2000 may prefer to learn from hard copy field guides, but there's almost no need for them: Computerized field guides, identification programs and web pages devoted to single families of birds can provide everything you need in a more customized, interactive format than old-fashioned books. Elaborate listing programs, such as Avisys and Thayer's, allow the new birders to slice and dice his world list in hundreds of ways, complete with updates of new splits and lumpings of species.

Technology is getting smaller all the time and taking a cue from the Japanese, a new birder could access his email wireless phone to keep track of the bird chat lines for rarities. Full web capabilities on a handheld unit can't be far behind, completely eliminating the need for field guides in book form. Even bird song identification and attracting birds using recordings from a web connection may soon be possible in the field using such a device. Handheld global positioning system devices are coming down in price all the time, so a birder will have no excuse for getting lost and will have the exact coordinates of a rare bird sighting that she can email straight to her state list serve so others have instant access to the information.

Email and list serves have changed every birder's life in the late 20th century. People are getting to the locations of rare birds in a matter of minutes, at times, rather than hours or the next day, which was the norm as little as five years ago, before the introduction of Chicago Ornithological Society's list serve - Illinois Birders Exchanging Thoughts (IBET). Even those without email have benefitted from the enormously faster dissemination of information about bird sightings because the phone hotline recorders are getting sighting information faster and more accurately.

Optical technology improves yearly, with digital and auto-focus binoculars coming down in price. Prices are dropping for exquisitely high quality binoculars, like the $459 Pentax DCF WP Waterproof Binoculars, which are fully submersible, nitrogen-filled so they never fog up inside and have phase-coated roof prisms to enhance the contrast and sharpen images. The latest Swarovski ELs are very lightweight and with the elimination of the bridge between barrels, can be held and focused in one hand.

On the home front, the Bird Professor is a bird feeder with a timer, which allows the homeowner to dispense bird seed only when it's convenient for him to watch birds who become trained to fly in to the rattle, announcing that the diner is open for business. At $170, the Bird Professor is a far cry from the upside down pop bottle feeders of our youths. For the ultimate landscaping statement, birdwatching.com suggests a "gorgeous, upscale, handmade copper birdbath that is a work of art." A price wasn't given on the web site, probably because of fears of sticker shock. A Bird Cam video recorder allows you to relay field filming straight to your TV or VCR at home, allowing you to preserve your memories of field birding forever. The Bird Cam costs $400, which by way of perspective is more than the price of a ticket to Arizona and back for some the real thing, as opposed to the recorded thing. And with Walker's Nature Ear II, you have "binoculars for your ears" with sound amplification increased by a factor of three to five. Even age can't stop a birder now from recognizing the upper ranges of warbler songs or chip notes from a distance. The Walker Ear II is available on the web for a mere $214 plus shipping and handling.

Rare hummingbirds graced Illinois feeders in the latter part of the 20th century. Will advanced field identification products help us identify more of these difficult-to-identify beauties? The photo of a Rufous Hummingbird at a Springfield, Illinois feeder on 15 November 1998 was taken by Dennis Oehmke.

Conservation

But even as birders' comfort levels increase and their ability to circumnavigate the globe in pursuit of their avocation becomes simple, all is not rosy for the birds themselves. Some birders hate to hear the word "conservation" but without more of it, and urgently, birders may get themselves to exotic locales, only to find them lacking in birds.

The "father of biodiversity," Edward O. Wilson, told Boyce Rensberger in the November/ December 1999 issue of Audubon magazine, that "If we continue at the current rate of deforestation and destruction of major ecosystems like rainforests and coral reefs, where most of the biodiversity is concentrated, we will surely lose more than half of all the species of plants and animals on earth by the end of the 21st century." Wilson went on to predict that most species destruction will come from areas already known as hot spots, such as the central American tropics, where biodiversity is extremely high. When asked what he thought America would look like in 100 years, he replied: "In the United States the trajectory is less threatening, but even here we would see shrinkage of fauna and flora over most of the country. And especially in our own hot spots, such as Hawaii and California. For example, in Hawaii alone, where species are disappearing at one of the highest rates in the world, there are more than 100 species of trees that consist of 20 individuals or fewer. So in a century, America would still be biologically rich in most places. But without a stronger conservation policy, it would be partly impoverished, and especially locally a lot of individual states would lose species."

Illinois is likely to be one of those impoverished states in the future when it comes to biodiversity unless drastic land preservation measures are undertaken immediately, based on predictions from the OpenLands Project. For example, the developed land in the Chicagoland metropolitan region, which is part of a major migratory bird flyway, could double by the year 2028, according to OpenLands' Strategic Open Lands at Risk (SONAR) project. Sprawl from the center of Chicago outward now affects 13 counties and will reach at least six more, if left unchecked. Such sprawl would threaten more than 300 high-quality natural areas, putting even more pressure on what little land is left undeveloped.

The good news is that birders and bird conservationists are getting better organized and are getting public officials to listen to their concerns. In Chicago, the Bird Conservation Network, a coalition of bird groups active in the 13 county area described above by OpenLands, has written a green paper on the importance of the Lake Michigan flyway to migrating birds. The paper and much face-to-face project work and relationship building with officials from the City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District and other agencies has resulted in an unprec-

edented interest in preserving habitat for migrant and nesting birds. Because of the work of the BCN and individual birders and bird clubs, Chicago is now the second city in the U.S. to sign the International Migratory Bird Treaty and a multi-year program of habitat improvements and public education is planned.

So even as the world of physical gadgets and modes of travel and communication changes almost daily, nothing about the psychological aspects of birding will ever really change.

Monk Parakeets were added to the state checklist in the 20th century. What new species will be added in the 21st century. Photo taken in Chicago by Jason South in the 1990s.

As Alexander Wilson is quoted by Welker in "Birds & Men" from papers at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard in the early 19th century: "It is only through personal intimacy, that we can truly ascertain the character of either (men or birds), more particularly that of the feathered race; noting their particular haunts, modes of constructing their nests, manner of flight, seasons of migration, favourite foods, and numberless other minutiae, which can only be obtained by frequent excursions in the woods and fields, along lakes, shores, and rivers, and requires a degree of patience and perseverance, which nothing but an enthusiastic fondness for the pursuit can inspire."

That desire for intimacy with birds will always characterize birders. All the trappings of the new millennium merely make that quest for closeness easier and more comfortable. A deeply important part of this quest is preservation of birds and like the earliest chroniclers of North American birds, 21st century birders have formidable frontiers to conquer. To change public attitudes and public policy about birds and their habitats globally is no small feat. But the idea of the extinction of even a single species in Illinois is enough to spur many individuals to take extraordinary action.

But the past does inform the present, even on this score. In "Birds & Men," Welker himself said: "Although the history of bird conservation in the nineteenth century culminates in concerted actions by powerful and dedicated groups, it begins with separate acts of protest by individuals."

You have only to look at the efforts of Illinois birders like – Walter Marcisz and Jim Landing on behalf of the Lake Calumet region or of Marianne Hahn on behalf of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie or Rhonda Monroe and Tracy Treacy on behalf of the Shawnee National Forest, or of Marilyn Campbell, executive director of the Illinois Audubon Society in Danville, which purchases bird habitat, or of Steven D. Bailey and Rhetta Jack of the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign, who are gathering data on breeding birds and habitat loss statewide or of Donald Dann who influences state and national funding programs on behalf of bird protection – to know that the ethos of conservation is still very much alive. Individual birders will have much to say and to do with the future of birds in the 21st century through their efforts today and 100 years from now.

Editor's Note: *The list above of active birders helping to conserve habitat represents just a small number of Illinois residents working to protect our avian resources. We are sorry we could not list them all. If you have any conservation efforts on behalf of birds you wish to promote, please contact me at:* sdevore@voyager.net

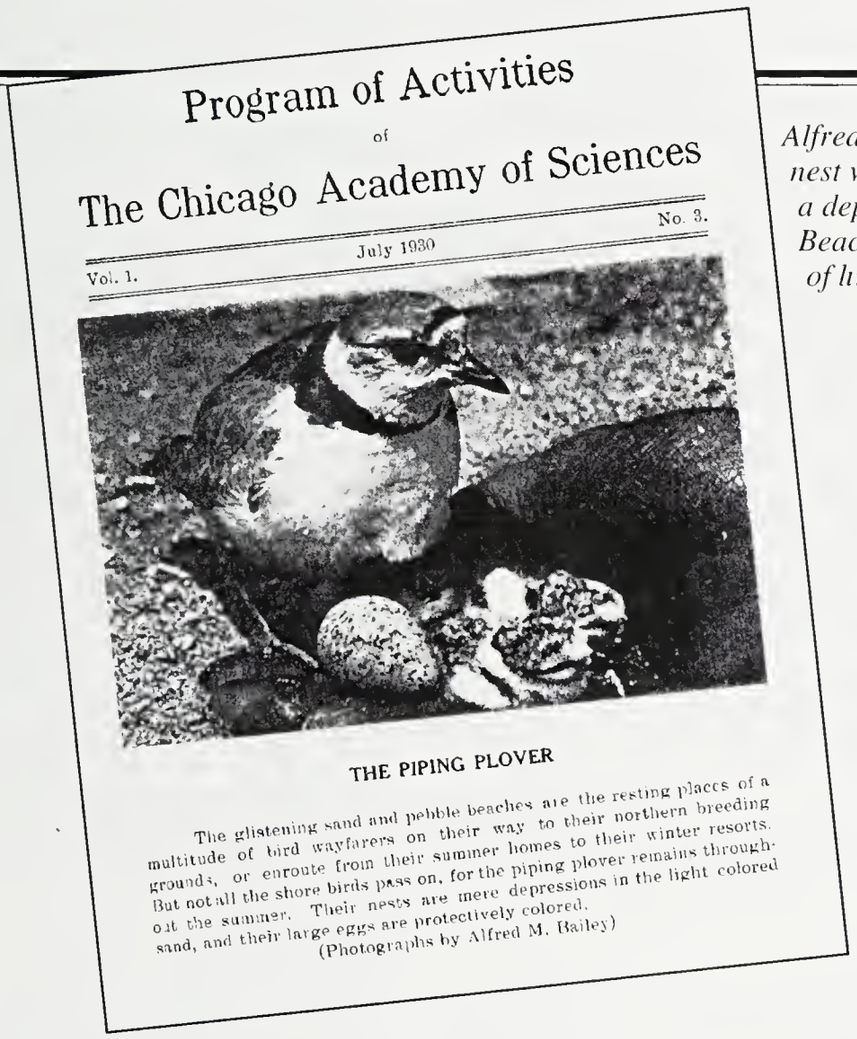
Your information could be published in either Meadowlark or our newsletter, Wings Over the Prairie. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to protecting birds and their habitat in Illinois. Please let us know what you are doing.

– Christine Williamson
4033 N. Clarendon
Chicago, IL 60613

Birding Illinois 100 Years Ago: Part 1

Birds of the Chicago Area at the Turn of the 20th Century

by Sheryl DeVore



Program of Activities

of

The Chicago Academy of Sciences

Vol. 1. July 1930 No. 3.

THE PIPING PLOVER

The glistening sand and pebble beaches are the resting places of a multitude of bird wayfarers on their way to their northern breeding grounds, or enroute from their summer homes to their winter resorts. But not all the shore birds pass on, for the piping plover remains throughout the summer. Their nests are mere depressions in the light colored sand, and their large eggs are protectively colored.

(Photographs by Alfred M. Bailey)

Alfred M. Bailey found a Piping Plover nest with four large spotted eggs laid in a depression in the sand at Waukegan Beach on 18 June 1930. Here is one of his photos published in July 1930.

Black-throated Blue Warbler breeding in Illinois. Hundreds of Black Terns nesting at Lake Calumet.

Twenty pairs of Piping Plovers nesting along the Chicagoland lakeshore.

No, this is not science fiction. This is reality–100 years ago! Illinois birders and researchers are fortunate to have a rich resource indicating what birds were present and breeding in the state a century ago.

In Volume 9 of *Meadowlark*, Nos. 1 through 4, we will present excerpts from literature written at the turn of the last century to enlighten you as to what type of avifauna we had long ago, and to encourage you to protect what we have now. In the year 2000, it is time to celebrate the rich history of bird life in Illinois, as well as to rededicate ourselves to maintaining and improving habitat for birds and for future generations to enjoy.

On 15 April 1907, the Chicago Academy of Sciences published "The Birds of the Chicago Area" by Frank Morley Woodruff in Bulletin No. VI of The Natural History Survey. Here is how Woodruff viewed bird life in the Chicago region at the beginning of the 20th century:

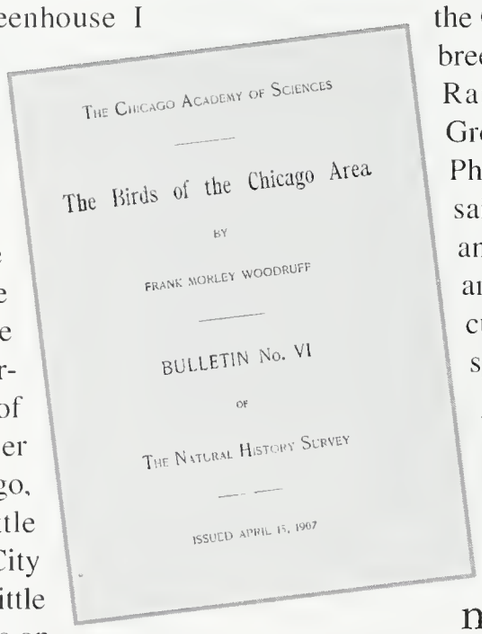
"On the rich meadows in the western portion of Cook County, in the vicinity of Worth Township, may be found resident such species as Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*), Grasshopper Sparrow (*Coturniculus savannarum passerinus*), Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), and during migrations LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus lecounteii*), Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*), Laplund Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*), and others."

He continues: "An especially good field for studying warblers during their migrations is in the higher timbered region of DuPage County, in the northern portion of our area. Here we also have as summer residents the Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*), the Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*), and the Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*). While about the region of Chicago with its chains of lakes divided by long ridges of timber may be found all of our more common forms of bird life in abundance."

Certainly bird life has changed since then in DuPage County. Black-throated Blue Warblers do not breed in northeastern Illinois nor anywhere in Illinois today. But some things never change. Jackson and Lincoln Parks have always been great places to bird, although these two spots need management if they are to continue to provide habitat for migratory avian species.

Woodruff writes: "The fine city parks of Chicago are the most favorable localities in which the birds may be studied with a field glass. The wooded island in Jackson Park is an

excellent place for the study of water loving passeres, such as the Prothonotary Warbler, Water Thrushes and Swamp Sparrows. Lincoln Park, one and one-half miles long, bordering on Lake Michigan, with its lagoons and lakes, numerous wooded knolls and hills, is a wonderfully attractive locality for the study of birds. On September 18, 1894, in one small patch of bushes near the greenhouse I found twelve specimens of the Connecticut Warbler.


THE CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The Birds of the Chicago Area

BY

FRANK MORLEY WOODRUFF

BULLETIN No. VI

OF

THE NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

ISSUED APRIL 15, 1907

"To show what an excellent locality Lincoln Park is for the study of birds I desire to call attention to the work of Professor Herbert Eugene Walter, of the Robert A. Waller High School, in Chicago, who published a little book, 'Wild Birds in City Parks.' This valuable little work consists of hints on the identifying of 145 birds, which he has observed and studied during the spring migrations in Lincoln Park. The object of this book is to furnish those who may be interested in making the acquaintance of wild birds with a simple letter of introduction to these birds, the majority of which are commonly seen during the spring migration."

Even 93 years ago, Woodruff complained about how growth in Chicagoland was affecting bird populations. He writes:

"As our territory becomes more thickly populated each year, the struggle for existence among our wild birds to remain and breed in their old haunts is really pitiful. The most secluded spots on our smaller streams and marshes are often fairly crowded with the nests of the poor birds which in years past were spread over a large territory. If the unscrupulous collectors are not restrained the species which I mention below will disappear entirely from our area. In 1891, hundreds of Black Terns (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*) nested along the shores of Calumet Lake, Hyde Lake, and the feeders of the Desplaines (sic) River. Today it would be difficult to find one of these birds nesting within our area." Woodruff goes on to mention the following species he considered in danger of disappearing from the Chicago region as breeding birds: King Rail, Pied-billed Grebe, and Wilson's Phalarope, which he said had been shot and driven from the area through persecution of Chicago sportsmen and egg hunters. Woodruff also reported two pairs of Piping Plovers nesting on the lake shore on 1 August 1897. "One family of five was destroyed by collectors," he writes. "The remaining pair successfully raised their young. At the present date, there are probably twenty pairs or so (of Piping Plovers) nesting during the breeding season within our area.... We may soon expect to have this fine bird disappear from our region."

As our territory becomes more thickly populated each year, the struggle for existence among our wild birds to remain and breed in their old haunts is really pitiful.

– Frank Morley Woodruff 1907

Woodruff's prediction nearly a century ago was right. Piping Plovers are gone as breeders in Illinois. And hundreds of Black Terns no longer breed in wetlands south of Chicago. The summer of 1999, the only reported nesting Black Terns in Illinois were at Stickney Run in McHenry County with four adults and two nests with eggs and at Broberg Marsh in Lake County with 40 nests (See Field Notes in this issue.) Researchers also found five Black Tern nests in northeastern Illinois in 1995, and 13 Black Tern nests in 1996. Their research also showed that 80 percent of these nests were successful (Paine 1997). But with their habitat dwindling, the birds remain in jeopardy.

The people of Illinois will probably never again witness the spectacle of Black Terns nesting by the hundreds at Calumet Lake. What we can do is work to make sure Black Terns at least continue to breed in Lake County into the 22nd century. We can also work to make sure the state-endangered Yellow-headed Blackbirds, which once "bred abundantly" at Calumet Lake (1893) and Black-crowned Night-Herons that still breed in Lake Calumet, do not go the way of the Black Tern.

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Black-necked Stilt Young Found in Southern Illinois Two Consecutive Years

by Rhonda Monroe

On 28 July 1998 while accompanying northern Illinois birders Sue Friscia and Wes Serafin on an excursion through the southern part of the state, I persuaded them to visit my favorite Jackson County shorebird viewing spot. The fallow field with several low spots that hold water is on Cemetery Road east of IL Route 3, between Route 3 and the Big Muddy Levee Road in southwestern Jackson County. It was late afternoon when we pulled onto Cemetery Road. We'd been there only a few minutes when Wes spotted an adult Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) flying up and over the road. A second stilt was also located nearby. Seeing two together, we assumed it was a pair. These were the first Black-necked Stilts I'd seen in the county; Todd Fink discovered up to six birds in the flooded fields from 19 June to 7 July 1993 (Meadowlark 3:18.)

On the afternoon of 22 August 1998, I revisited the Cemetery Road shorebird spot and again located two adult Black-necked Stilts, which were easily seen from the road without needing binoculars. They were feeding in the shallow water. Laraine Wright returned with me to the site at 7 p.m. where we found not only the two adult stilts, but also two young stilts. The adults were feeding in the shallow water, and the young were feeding along the water's edge several meters from their parents. The young were a bit more than half the size of the adults, and lacked the bold pink leg coloration seen on adults. The young were chocolate brown and white as compared to the jet black and white coloration of the adults.

Black-necked Stilt drawing by Leslie A. DeCourcey.

This was the second confirmed fledging of Black-necked Stilt young in southern Illinois; the first occurred on 29 July 1995 when H. David Bohlen, et. al., located two adult and one young stilt along Cemetery Road. (Bohlen 1996).

Vicki Lang and I visited the site 23 August 1998, at which time I video taped all four stilts. It was 12:30 p.m. when we arrived. We observed the stilts for 30 minutes from my vehicle parked along Cemetery Road. The four stilts were still present when we left at 1:08 p.m. I persuaded Cathie Hutcheson, with her photography equipment in tow, to accompany me to the site on the afternoon of 24 August 1998 to secure still photographs of the stilts. We didn't see the stilts that day, so no photos were obtained. Vicki Lang and I returned to the area on 29 August 1998 finding four stilts, two adult and two young.

The water in the fields along Cemetery Road dissipated in September 1998. In that month I located one adult Black-necked Stilt in a flooded field approximately 950 meters south of Cemetery Road.

The following year on 20 June 1999, David Kvernes and I went on a birding trip to Alexander County in southwestern Illinois. We checked several spots southeast of East Cape Girardeau, an area made up mostly of farm flats known to flood and hold water. We met a third southern Illinois birder, Lester Barger, who was in the area looking for Black-necked Stilts that Frank Bennett had

found one day earlier on 19 June 1999. Lester, David, and I converged on Gerard Road, 1.3 miles south off IL Route 148. In and over a flooded field east of Gerard Road were a total of six Black-necked Stilts. From the road through our spotting scopes we were able to observe that two of the stilts were tending a nest along the eastern side of the flooded area at the water's edge. One of these two birds settled onto the nest while we were watching. Three other stilts, closer to where we were set up on the road, were quite vocal and intermittently displayed distraction behavior leading us to believe that another nest was present somewhere nearer the road but not visible to us.

While there I video taped through my spotting scope securing footage of several stilts including the pair at the distant nest. A group of birders and I return to the Gerard Road stilt location on 10 July 1999 only to find that the water level in the area had risen and the shoreline nest visible on 20 June was now under water. Several adult stilts were still present. Using our scopes we intensely scanned all the visible shorelines. A second possible nest was spotted at an adjacent flooded area southwest of the first nest location.

A visit to the Gerard Road area on 17 July 1999 by Laraine Wright, Vicki Lang, and myself was more than worthwhile as we found not only four adult Black-necked Stilts, but also four young. The young were paired, with two adult stilts accompanying each pair. The two families were feeding within approximately seven meters of each other. The young were one-third the size of the adults. They displayed downy-like feathering and lacked the bold pink leg coloration of the adults. The young were light chocolate brown from the crown of their heads down to their rumps; their throat, breast, and abdomen appeared off-white. The four adults remained near the young, chasing off any other birds that approached the leggy chicks. Video tape footage was obtained but the quality was poor as it was taken at a distance from the road.

Frank Bennett also visited the Gerard Road area on 17 July 1999. He video taped a total of 11 stilts that day, the maximum number seen at that location in 1999.

The first record of nesting success of Black-necked Stilt in Illinois occurred 4 June 1994 when Cynthia McKee found a Black-necked Stilt sitting on a nest, also in Jackson County. (Bohlen 1996).

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Western Kingbird Nests in Sangamon County, Illinois

by H. David Bohlen

Western Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) nest rarely and sporadically in Illinois. So I was quite interested when Dennis Oehmke told me while he was playing golf, he had seen two or three birds at the Lincoln Greens Golf Course at Lake Springfield. I saw an adult female in the morning and probably a hatching year male in the evening at the same place on 3 August 1998. Further searches a couple of days later and in the rest of August proved fruitless. Apparently we had gotten in on the last of the nesting cycle and the birds had migrated. The adult bird had looked to be in very worn plumage and both adults and hatching year birds molt on the winter grounds. Thus they could have migrated anytime the young bird was ready.

In 1999 I first saw a Western Kingbird in the same area of the very busy golf course on 18 May. On 21 May 21 both male and female were present and carrying nesting material. On 24 May I found the nest high in a sycamore tree on the golf course. On 26 May, Beckie Dyer and I viewed the nest again and saw not only a pair of Western Kingbirds, but also a third adult near the lake slightly to the west of the pair. I speculated this was the male produced last year at this site.

By 31 May, the female was sitting on the nest. The Western Kingbird nest was a loose construction of grass and twigs. It was too high to see the contents. Also noted was an Eastern Kingbird nest in another sycamore tree less than 50 yards to the southwest. The female Western Kingbird was on the nest 3, 11, and 18 June. On 30 June, the adults were feeding young in the nest. On 5 July, a rather well-feathered youngster sat on the edge of the nest while the female fed another young in the nest.

On 12 July, we could see three fledged young Western Kingbirds in the top of an adjoining tree. They were being fed by the pair of adults. The young were lighter in color and had somewhat shorter tails than the adults. The adults were in fairly worn plumage. When we walked out by the lake, three obviously young Eastern Kingbirds (with reddish orange gapes)

Photo of Western Kingbird taken 19 June 1995 in Springfield by Dennis Oehmke.

were sitting on a bare branch and intermittently being fed by adults. At least the adults were trying to do so. The adults, when they approached their young, were chased off by a Western Kingbird. I always thought the Eastern and Western Kingbirds were the same size – but the Western looked bigger and somewhat more robust, and the tail was definitely longer and fuller. This chasing went on for about 15 minutes and the young Eastern Kingbirds were not getting fed. We backed away so as not to interfere. Finally the Western landed near one of the young Eastern Kingbirds and fed it! At this point Beckie and I went back to see if both Western adults were still with their young and found that they were. At this time two Eastern adults came into that tree and caused a stir, but were chased off by the Westerns. None of the adult kingbirds of either species were seen to physically harm the young of the other species. A high count of six Western Kingbirds was tallied on 12 July.

So there were still three adult Western Kingbirds in the area one of which I assume is unmated and maybe trying to be a "helper at the nest." However, it seems to have chosen the Eastern young to attend and was chasing the Eastern adults. It is difficult not to anthropomorphize but that is my interpretation of the events we witnessed. With two nests being so close together, the two species of kingbirds are bound to be in some conflict. Also in the same area was an Eastern Wood-Pewee with its young, but there did not seem to be any conflict with either Kingbird species.

On 14 and 21 July we again noticed the unmated Western Kingbird sitting with the young Eastern Kingbirds and also chasing the adult Eastern Kingbirds. On the latter date it seemed to be more content to sit on a wire near the young. On 29 July two of the hatching year Western Kingbirds were seen at the north end of Lake Springfield, which is well over a half-mile north of the nest. That was the last sighting of the Western Kingbirds even though we checked the golf course a couple of times in early August.

This is the first and second nestings of Western Kingbirds in Sangamon County. With the fledgling of three young there may be more the summer of 2000.

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First Breeding Record of Little Blue Heron for Northeastern Illinios

by Walter Marcisz

It finally happened. After having been teased for several years with "possible" and "probable" breeding evidence, I am delighted to report that Little Blue Herons have at last been confirmed to be breeding in northeastern Illinois!

The details: On 20 and 29 May, and 19 June 1999 I observed an adult Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) in the Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctico rax nycticorax*) nesting colony at Indian Ridge Marsh North, located in the Lake Calumet region on the far southeast side of Chicago (Cook County). On 30 June, Doug Stotz, Conservation Ecologist/Ornithologist at the Field Museum of Natural History, E-mailed me, stating he had just observed adult Little Blue Herons carrying twigs into the reeds in two different locations at the Indian Ridge night-heron colony.

Unlike many heron species, Calumet area Black-crowned Night-Herons commonly nest just above water level in stands of common reed (*Phragmites australis*), rather than in tree colonies. Stotz had definitely observed three adult Little Blues on the 30th, but he believed two pairs of adults were actually present. On 5

July, I had an opportunity to investigate the colony where I observed a pair of adult Little Blues flying to the closer of the two locations previously reported by Stotz (reeds near 116th Street and the Norfolk & Southern railroad tracks). One of the adults "dive-bombed" me and scolded me with its rather quiet version of a "quawk" call. Before then, I had never heard a Little Blue Heron make any type of sound. After observing this display, I quickly left the site to prevent further disturbance.

On 25 July 1999 I again revisited the site, where I soon observed an adult Little Blue fly into the reeds far back in the marsh, in the vicinity of the farther location where Stotz had reported nest-building behavior. Shortly afterward, the same (or another) Little Blue flew out of the marsh.Then a juvenile Little Blue Heron flew over the railroad track site and eventually landed on a tree stump at the north end of the marsh. I recall assuring myself that the juvenile was probably just a late summer wanderer from one of the downstate heron colonies, when I was suddenly shocked back to reality by an adult Little Blue Heron that rose from the marsh near the railroad track site. The adult Little Blue proceeded to fly around me, scolding me with soft "honking" or "quawk" notes.

Then things really began to happen. A second juvenile and another adult rose from railroad track site. The second juvenile alighted beside the first one on the same stump, with the two adults perched nearby. The two juveniles began engaging in typical sibling horseplay ("sword fights" with their bills), and as they did I observed they still had down feathers on their heads, forming shaggy crests on both birds. Clearly, as of this date, the closer of the two nesting locations had fledged at least two young, and the farther of the two nesting locations was still active.

In all of the above observations, the adult Little Blue Herons were night-heron sized birds, but slimmer, with proportionately longer legs and necks. The head and neck were deep maroon, and the body plumage was uniform dark slate blue. The thick, stout bill was blue basally with a blackish tip, and the legs were greenish. Both of the juveniles observed had entirely white body plumage except for the obvious, clear-cut, slate blue wing tips. The thick, stout bills of the juveniles were grayish basally with a blackish tip, and the legs were greenish.

A search through the literature revealed that Ford (1956), Bohlen (1978 & 1989), and Mlodinow (1984) do not list any Little Blue Heron nesting records for northeastern Illinois. Events that have transpired over the last few years, however, suggest Little Blues have been nesting in northeastern Illinois for several years now, but there has never been sufficient evidence to prove it beyond a doubt. In June 1996, I saw an adult Little Blue Heron carry a weed stalk into the reeds at Lake Calumet's Big Marsh. In DuPage County, Jack Pomatto (pers. comm.) believes a pair of Little Blues was likely to have nested at Pratts Wayne Woods Forest Preserve in 1996. During 1998, at least two pairs of adult Little Blue Herons summered in the Calumet region of Chicago. A juvenile (being chased around by an adult), which I observed at Lake Calumet's Hegewisch Marsh in July 1998, was believed to have come from a local nest, but again was best regarded as probable nesting since it could not be confirmed.

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Building a Nest Tower for Chimney Swifts

by Cathie Hutchenson

For home-owners, roofing tile replacement is an inevitability. When we had to face the expense of replacing our roofing, we contacted a contractor who gave us an estimate for the roof work, but said we'd have to remove our chimney or he couldn't guarantee the roof wouldn't leak. Even the mason I contacted said the chimney should be removed, but I wanted to keep it because Chimney Swifts nested in it each year and I didn't want to lose these excellent insect-eaters. The nation's Chimney Swift population is decreasing as people cap or remove their chimneys. Before Europeans invaded the North American continent, swifts required hollow nesting trees, which restricted their range to mostly east of the plains. After the Europeans settled and built their houses (and chimneys) the swifts adapted to using the man-made structures instead of hollow trees, subsequently increasing their population nationwide.

Chimney Swift on nest in tower built by Cathie Hutcheson.

In southern Illinois, a canoe trip through the Cache River region gives observers the best chance to see Chimney Swifts nesting in trees, where they use the many hollow cypress and tupelos for roosting and breeding. I had been wondering whether I should get a hollow tree from the woods and stand it somewhere near my house to provide a nest site for the resident swifts as well as the migrant swifts who use our chimney as an overnight roost in fall. I contacted the Driftwood Wildlife Association in Austin, Texas, which I had read about on TEXBIRDS, the IBET equivalent in Texas. According to them, the best thing is to keep a chimney the swifts are using, but since that wasn't an option for me, it was suggested that I build a nest tower. I received the plans, bought the materials, and constructed the tower for placement at the back of my house.

I built the tower in the backyard where I planned to erect it, near the old chimney and on the north side of the house so the tower would be shaded from the summer sun. The tower wasn't hard to build, but it was hard to stand upright. Fortunately, we have a large tractor with a front-end loader. I managed to slowly lift the tower until it stood on its legs next to the house. I then attached the tower to the house with an "H" shaped 2x4 affair so the tower wouldn't blow over in a stiff wind. I made a clean out/observation door at the bottom of the tower so I could remove the debris at the end of the nesting year and watch any nesting activity.

After a few weeks, I noticed some swifts had been roosting in the tower, but no nest was under construction. I had hoped that a nest would be built in the tower, but if the birds used the tower only as a roost, I would still have their services as insect controls and the entertainment of their flying. So far, we had about six swifts roosting in the tower, which was enough for bug control. In the middle of June, I noticed some sticks on the floor of the tower, so I looked up. A pair had begun building a nest of 30 to 50 sticks and saliva, somewhat reminiscent of a Mourning Dove nest. In the next few days a bird began sitting on the nest, laying and incubating eggs (Photo 1). I checked the tower twice a week, and the bird was almost always on the nest. About two weeks later, a cracked egg was on the floor of the tower. When I removed it, I noticed there was no embryo, so the egg was infertile, but the bird was still incubating since she had more eggs in the nest. A couple of weeks later, there were two eggshells and another complete egg on the floor of the tower, indicating that there were at least two chicks in the nest. A bird was brooding the young most of the time, leaving only to feed. The tower had proven acceptable for a Chimney Swift nest,

and two young were fledged and banded (Photo 2).

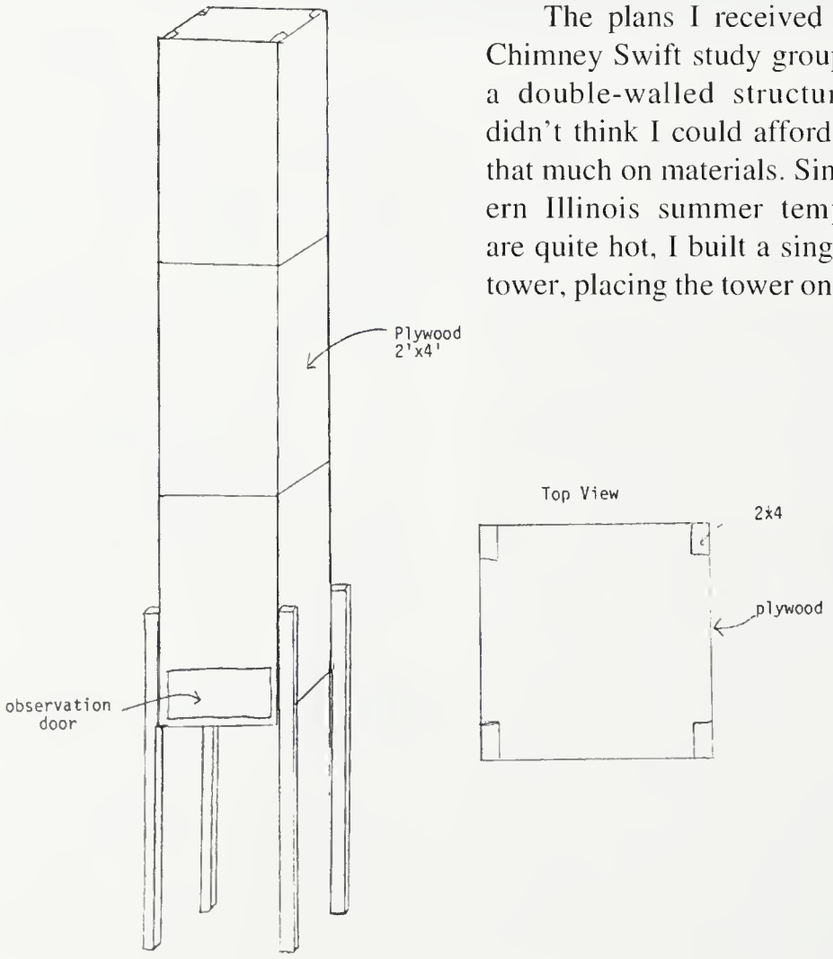
Chimney Swift fledgling banded and photographed by Cathie Hutcheson. This youngster was born in a nest inside the nest tower Cathie built.

As you can see from the drawing (Figure 1), the tower I built is a simple structure. I used three sheets of outdoor plywood meant for siding on a house, cutting the 4x8' sheet of plywood into four 2x4' foot sections so the grooves would be horizontal, not vertical, and placing the grooves on the inside of the structure. By doing this, the swifts were given toeholds that simulated a block or brick chimney. I put the 12' tower structure on 4x4' treated lumber legs. The tower is much shorter than the chimney that the birds used in the past, but that didn't deter the birds from using it almost immediately. Although the tower stands on a concrete pad, southern Illinois is known for its termites, so I put the tower as far off the ground as I could. I also used the same protective stain that was used on the rest of the siding on the house so the tower would look similar to my house.

The plans I received from the Chimney Swift study group was for a double-walled structure, but I didn't think I could afford to spend that much on materials. Since southern Illinois summer temperatures are quite hot, I built a single-walled tower, placing the tower on the north side of the house to provide some cooling, and leaving the clean-out door ajar at the bottom to provide air circulation. I will put a rain and sun shield on the top of the tower after the birds leave on migration since the birds began using the tower before I managed to get that done.

I hope to build two more towers and attach them to the barns on my property. Though many swifts roost in a tower, only one pair of Chimney Swifts nests in each tower (or chimney). Adding more towers will give swifts more nest sites, and give me more birds to band!

I would encourage any homeowner to build a nest tower for Chimney Swifts, either as an addition to an existing structure or to new construction. The tower could be integrated into the design of the building, or made to fit with the design of an existing house. Though the inside of the tower needs to have the grooved plywood, the outside could match the siding on the house. Having only spent about $100 on materials and a few hours labor, I was able to watch these fascinating and secretive birds during their nesting.



Chimney Swift nest tower diagram by Cathie Hutcheson.

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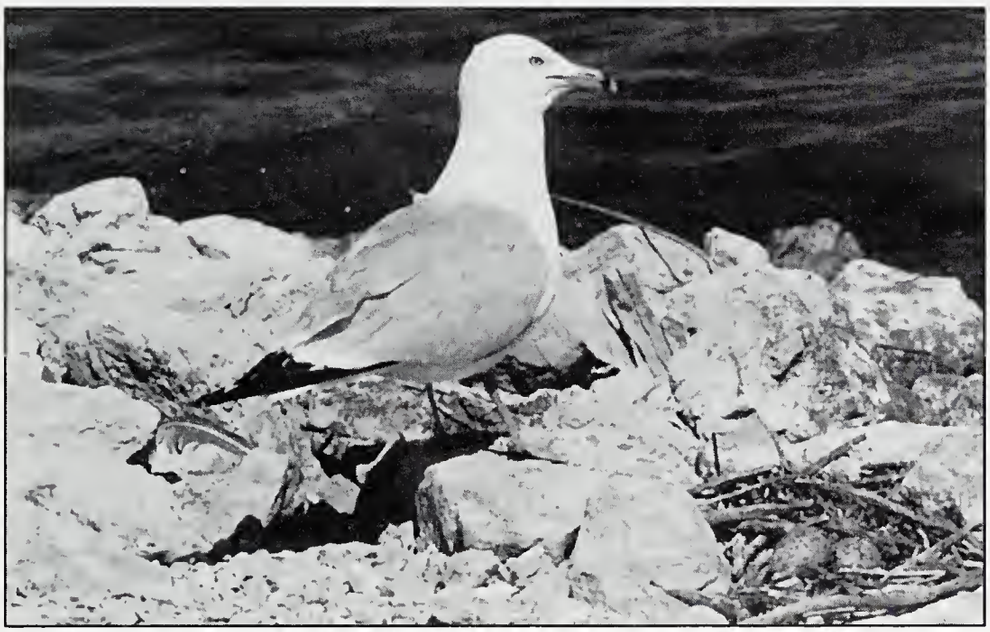
Editor's Note: *Cathie Hutcheson has been a birder and bird bander since 1970 when she helped found the Southern Illinois Bird Observatory. Last year, she began participating in the MAPS banding project, a nation-wide bird population monitoring project.*

Loafing Behavior of Ring-billed Gulls

by William Moskoff, Alla Fooks, Irina Ovrutskaya, Priscilla K. Carson Lindberg, and Valerie Ward



Ring-billed Gull Photo by Eric Walters.

We recorded observations on the following activities: standing, sitting, walking, swimming, bathing, preening, foraging, and vocalizing.

Studying the behavior of gulls on and off the colony can make important contributions to our knowledge of the time budgets of these animals. The behavior of gulls at the colony could be a critical determinant of reproductive success or failure. Colonial behaviors have been studied by several researchers (Burger 1976, Conover and Miller 1980). As a result, we have a good understanding of how breeding gulls spend their time during the incubation and chick-rearing stages of the annual breeding cycle. Thus, for example, nest defense through parental vigilance and even aggressive actions are typical behaviors of breeding gulls, behaviors that would obviously be unnecessary away from the colony. But the activities engaged in away from the breeding colony may also have important fitness implications for gulls.

We studied the loafing behavior of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) on the shores of Lake Michigan in Waukegan, Illinois from early May to mid-July in 1996 and 1997. These gulls were associated with a breeding colony of approximately 1,000 pairs. While many of the gulls at the beach were probably nesting gulls, many were also non-nesters, birds that had failed to find a mate, experienced a failed nesting effort, or suffered a breakdown of their territory (Conover 1984). Non-nesting gulls often loaf at the edge of a colony, and their numbers may even increase relative to nesting gulls during the breeding season because of nesting failures and territorial destruction.

We observed birds at the beach and in the lake through binoculars or a spotting scope, usually at distances of 30-60 meters, closer when we could observe them behind low-lying sand banks, at greater distances when we might be visible to the gulls. Individual gulls were observed for 10 minutes with their behavior recorded every 30 seconds for a total of 20 observations per subject. Observations that ended before the conclusion of the 10-minute period were discarded. Observations were typically made between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. We treated each 10-minute sequence as a single observation, calculating the percentage of time devoted to each behavior within a sequence. We recorded observations on the following activities: standing, sitting, walking, swimming, bathing, preening, foraging, and vocalizing. In addition, at randomly selected times we also counted the number of birds in the water and on the land simultaneously.

Results

Loafing is a land-based rather than a water-based set of activities. More individuals were found on the beach as compared to the water, no matter the time of day. The average size of flock on land was 327 individuals and in the water was 50 individuals (N=19 flocks). In addition, of the 283 individuals observed first flying into the lake to loaf, only 19.4 % remained in the lake for an entire 10-minute observation period, while 78.4 % moved from the water to the land to loaf at some point during an observation. A trivial number (2. 1 %) went from the water to the land and then back to the water during the 10 minutes of observation. In contrast, of the gulls flying to the beach itself, fully 96% remained on land during the entire observation period, while only 2.5% went into the water. A small number, 1.5 % went from the land to the water and then back to the land.

Five activities accounted for 90% of the time Ring-billed Gulls devoted to loafing: standing relaxed (16.3 %), swimming (13.3%), bathing (7.8%), preening (46.1%), and sleeping (6.6%). Thus the three self-maintenance activities (bathing, preening, sleeping) demanded about 60% of the time of loafing gulls.

Discussion

The most dramatic differences between the ways Ring-billed Gulls spend their time at the colony and away from the colony is the time devoted to preening and the time spent in the water. According to Conover and Miller's work (1980), breeding Ring-billed Gulls devote only about 10% of their time to preening while they are at the colony and, by definition, spend no time in the water. Thus, if you add the time spent in the water to the time spent preening away from the colony, Ring-billed Gulls spend at least 55% of their time away from the colony differently than they do at the colony. The high proportion of time spent by gulls in self-maintenance may have reproductive consequences. It is known that parasitic loading diminishes the fitness of the host (Price 1980), and anti-parasitic behavior may require a great deal of the host's time. Ring-billed Gulls may have developed the strategy of using the beach as the place where they reduce their parasite loading by a high level of preening. Great Tits (*Parus major*) that occupy highly infested nests have been shown to reduce their nighttime sleeping significantly in order to sanitize their nests (Christe et al. 1996). Breeding Ring-billed Gulls may adjust their activity patterns by leaving the colony where their dominant preoccupation is territorial defense and care of young. Non-breeding gulls, often unwelcome at breeding territories, may devote a high proportion of their time to preening because any chance they have to be successful breeders in the future depends on maintaining their health in the present. Since they are often forced to defend themselves at the colony, self-maintenance may require they leave the colony site.

...three self-maintenance activities (bathing, preening, sleeping) demanded about 60% of the time of loafing gulls.

The demonstration that Ring-billed Gulls have strikingly different patterns of behavior at and away from the colony raises several questions. Is there any relationship between reproductive success and the ability of gulls to leave the nest site and have sufficient time to loaf? Do other gull species exhibit such differences in behavior? It would be useful to have further research done to answer these questions.

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Band Tailed Pigeon in DeWitt County

by Dale Birkenholz

Don Filkin, who owns a Christmas tree farm one mile northwest of Wapella in DeWitt County called me 15 July 1999 to describe a bird visiting his feeder he could not identify. I visited the site the next day and got good views and photos after waiting for about two hours. It was a Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*). I returned the next day with Rhea Edge and Ed Mockford, and we got good views again with additional photos, which show the bright yellow bill with a black tip and the red orbital ring.

Band-tailed Pigeon. 16 July 1999. DeWitt County. The bird was present from 13 July to 18 July at the home of Don Filkin near the town of Wapella. Photo by Dale Birkenholz.

The bird usually appeared about 9 a.m. and again about 2:30 p.m. It landed on the feeder, and almost immediately began to feed on sunflower seeds. Afterward, it often perched in a nearby tree. Sometimes it remained perched for up to two hours. Other times, it left after feeding. The bird was quite wary sometimes, while other times it permitted close activity.

This pigeon, last seen on 18 July 1999, represents the second Illinois record for this species. The first was on the Springfield Christmas Bird Count 22 December 1996. This bird visited a feeder from 22 December 1996 to 23 January 1997. (See Meadowlark: Vol. 6, pp. 82-85 for an article on the state's first Band-tailed Pigeon and its Status in Eastern North America by H. David Bohlen.)

This species typically is found in western North and Middle America from southwest British Columbia south through the mountains of Washington to Baja California, as well as into the mountains of Mexico, El Salvador and the Honduras, among other locations. At least 49 Band-tailed Pigeon records exist for states in eastern North America outside of its typical range.

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Second White-winged Dove for Illinois

by Robert Hughes

On 26 April 1999, a White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) made a brief, but memorable appearance at Montrose Harbor in Chicago. While there, the bird actively moved from tree to tree attempting to court a domestic collared dove.

The large white wing patches and white tail corners of the White-winged Dove were conspicuous, espesically in flight. Also, the bird gave its distinctive "who-cooks-for-you" call several times. After five minutes or so of apparently fruitless courting, the dove flew to the west, and never returned. John Purcell and Kanae Hirabayashi also saw this bird.

Of all our Colubids, the White-winged Dove shows the greatest tendency to wander, with vagrants having been found as far away as the Canadian Maritimes. This sighting represents the second confirmed record for Illinois, and given this species' wanderlust, it will undoubtedly not be the last.

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Singin' the Bicknell Blues

by Scott Hickman

On 13 September1998, Larry Larson and I were birding Ryerson Conservation Area, a 553-acre preserve bordering the DesPlaines River in northeastern Illinois. Swainson's Thrushes had been arriving in large numbers, and we were seeing lots of them. I was anxious to find a Gray-cheeked Thrush so Larry could compare these two similar species. Finally, as we neared the river, I spotted what seemed to be a classic Gray-cheeked. It was perched at head height about 6 or 7 yards away in a small tree. Most of the lower half of its body was obscured by vegetation, but the drab plumage of its back as well as the side of its face were clearly visible.

"Larry, quick, look at this bird," I said. "There is absolutely no eye ring, and it has a really gray face." At that point, the bird hopped to the ground. It was now fully in view with its olivish-brown back to us, revealing a strongly chestnut-colored tail! I concluded that I had just misidentified a Hermit Thrush and we continued our walk. After about 10 steps I realized a Hermit Thrush typically has an eye ring, and that the bird we saw did not cock its tail as Hermits often do. I wondered if we had just seen a Bicknell's Thrush, a form of the Gray-cheeked that was elevated to full species status in 1995. We immediately returned to the bird, and instantly relocated it. The bird was on the ground, facing away from us, with its head turned to afford us a lateral view of its face. I rechecked the face and tail. It was the same bird, with a nice drab back, a gray face with no eye ring, and a chestnut-colored tall. Just as I was ready to note other characteristics, the bird flew away.

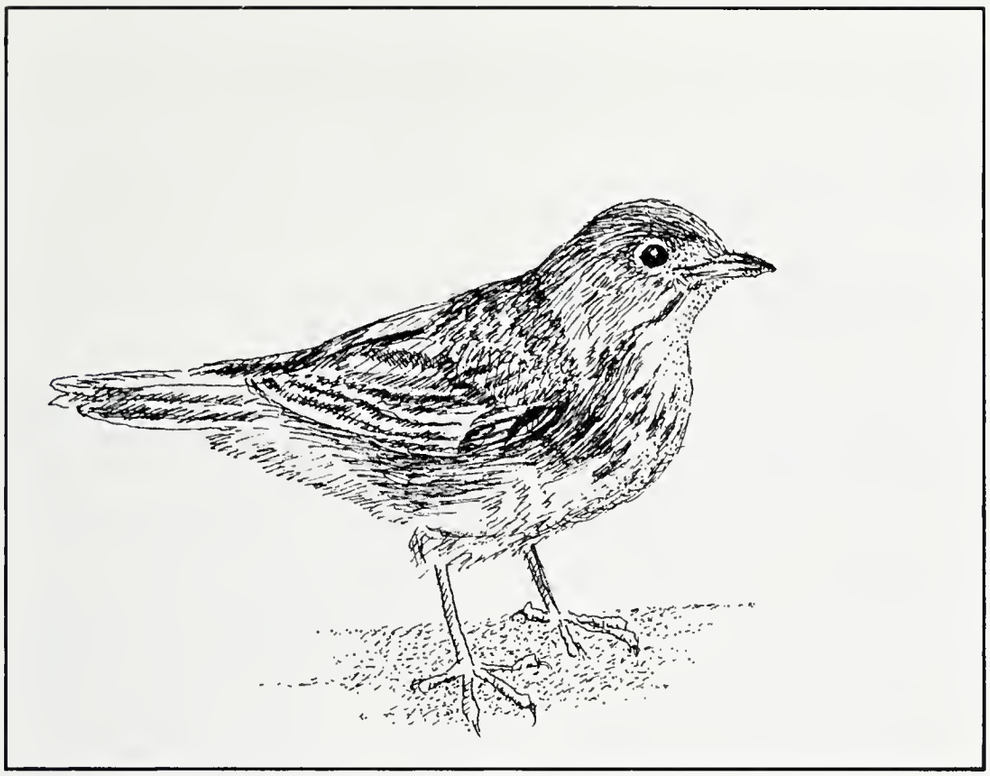
So what did Larry and I see? According to the National Geographic Guide to Birds of North America, the Hermit Thrush is supposed to have a complete eye ring. This olivish-brown-backed bird we saw did not. The only other possibility for a drably olivish-brown backed thrush like this would have been Gray-cheeked, but our bird had a chestnut tail. Bicknell's has basically the same face as Gray-cheeked, but almost always (98%) has a chestnut-colored tail, while the Gray-cheek never does (Ouellet 1993). Considering these key characteristics, Bicknell's Thrush seems to be the only alternative. However, the occurrence of a migratory Bicknell's Thrush in Illinois has been considered doubtful (Graber et al. 1971), even though Ridgway (1889) and Coale (1916) report the collection of specimens from without our state during 1884 and 1909, respectively (for a review see Ford 1956).

I called Dr. Henri Ouellet to discuss my sighting, since his research served as the basis for separating Bicknell's from Gray-cheeked Thrush. He said my observations were consistent with Bicknell's, supported by the chestnut tail and by the impression I had that the tail color rather abruptly contrasted with the color of the back. In spite of these factors indicating this bird could well have been a Bicknell's Thrush, I was still uncomfortable claiming it for my Lake County list, a keen temptation since my Lake County list is my favorite, and this bird would bring me one closer to catching up with one of my Saturday birding friends, Al Stokie.

As Al quickly and correctly pointed out, the boldness of Hermit Thrush eye rings must certainly vary. I casually tested this by keeping track of Hermit Thrush eye rings for the rest of the fall. While I could not find one that completely lacked an eye ring, I did observe two (out of over 100) that had indistinct ones. I also traveled to the Field Museum to view study skins to check for eye ring variability, and quickly learned this was something I couldn't determine from study skins. The skin at the edge of the specimen's eyes was just too dry and lightened to tell what was an eye ring and what was not. Therefore, at this time, I cannot completely discount the possibility that I saw an "eye-ringless" Hermit Thrush. I am also uncomfortable claiming this bird because of my lack of experience with Bicknell's Thrush. I've never seen one (maybe).

I thought if I could just see one for myself, I could compare "my bird" to a definite Bicknell's and come to a more solid conclusion. So, while attending the Wilson Ornithological Society's June 1999 meeting in Maine, I hiked three different mountains where this species is reputed to nest. No luck on any of the three and I didn't have time for a fourth try. These unsuccessful attempts left me where I still am, unable to compare the bird I saw with a Bicknell's Thrush.

My ability to come to a solid identification is further confounded by the conflicting descriptions of this species' tail color in key references. I was anxiously awaiting publication of the third edition of the National Geographic Guide to the Birds of North America because I knew it would include Bicknell's Thrush. When I got the book, I eagerly turned



Bicknell's Thrush drawing by Brian K. Willis.

I thought if I could just see one for myself, I could compare "my bird" to a definite Bicknell's and come to a more solid conclusion.

to the thrush section only to find the plate that included Bicknell's displayed all the thrushes as excessively blandly colored. The Bicknell's Thrush was depicted with a tepidly warm tail. My bird's tail was a strong chestnut, like that shown by the color plate accompanying Ouellet's (1993) paper. My verbal communication with Ouellet indicated chestnut was the correct color for Bicknell's, but his passing before publication of the new geographic guide precluded any discussion of this discrepancy. Another reference states the chestnut in the tail of Bicknell's Thrush can be variable, and that some Gray-cheeked Thrushes may also appear to have warm brown or even chestnut-colored tails, although they don't abruptly clash with the back color (McLaren 1995).

The final obstacle to justifying the addition of this bird to my life and Lake County lists is that I did not note other Bicknell's characteristics, nor did I hear it sing. This problem bird flew off before I had time to check for other clues to its identity. If it indeed were a Bicknell's, the proximal half of its lower mandible should have been a bright pale yellow and its throat should have been buffy (Ouellet 1993). Without these additional features, it is impossible to feel comfortable "claiming" such a rare and out-of-range bird by only a few key characteristics. And without hearing this bird sing, it may have been impossible to determine its identity even if I had recorded more detailed plumage observations.

So, after almost one year's worth of work attempting to conclusively determine what this bird was, I am afraid I must stay where I am, two Lake County birds behind Al, singin' the Bicknell Blues.

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Editor's Note: *See guest essay for comments on birds difficult to identify in the field.*

A Challenge for Illinois Birders:
Separating Bicknell's from Gray-cheeked Thrush

by Steven D. Bailey

As early as 1881, ornithologists recognized the Bicknell's Thrush as a distinct form of the similar Gray-checked Thrush. (See the description of the then Gray-cheeked sub-species as given by Wallace in Bent 1949). In his article, "Singin the Bicknell Blues," Scott Hickman aptly describes some of the general differences between Bicknell's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes. He also illustrates the potential for discovering a rarity, especially birds such as the Bicknell's Thrush, if one takes the time to study the rather subtle plumage differences in birds, such as in the genus *Catharus*. Other difficult identifications involving subtle plumage and or behavioral differences can be found in the *Myiarchus, Tyrannus,* and *Empidonax* flycatcher genuses, as well as some Spizella sparrow and Dendroica warbler species, especially in fall or worn plumages.

Birders in Illinois and other midwestern states must not only use extreme caution in trying to identify Bicknell's Thrush in the field, especially in fall, but they may also have to accept the fact that this species may be impossible to separate in the field from Gray-cheeked, unless it is singing. Although Hickman points out the general differences in the two species, those, as well as more detailed and discriminating differences (such as wing length and tail length) are not necessarily diagnostic. Even taking measurements to the nearest mm of a bird in the hand can fail to identify an individual to its species, since considerable overlap exists (Pyle 1997). Even a trait supposedly diagnostic for separating Bicknell's from Gray-cheeked, that of having a rufous-colored tail much like that of the similar Hermit Thrush, is not entirely fool proof. Not only are there variances in color tones of the upper parts within different populations of Bicknell's Thrush, but also at least one of the two recognized races of the Gray-cheeked Thrush have warm brown tones to the upper parts, which closely resemble the typical Bicknell's.

> Anyone trying to identify Bicknell's Thrush in the field in Illinois should throw out their field guides, or at least don't trust the plates or pictures you see, or take the text too literally.

Birders also need to consider other factors such as feather wear, stage of molt, and differences within one species. That can only further confound field identification.

Two excellent and fairly exhaustive articles (McLaren 1995, Smith 1996) describe the pitfalls of trying to distinguish these two species in the field. They also mention the other traits (including the more extensive amount of bright yellow on the lower mandible of Bicknell's) that were used as the basis for separating Bicknell's from Gray-cheeked Thrush in the paper (Ouellet 1993) that served as the justification for the A.O.U.'s (1995) acceptance of Bicknell's as a full species.

Illinois birders should consider several comments by Smith (1996) if they are trying to note some of the supposedly "diagnostic" field marks of Bicknell's Thrush. Ouellet's research was largely the result of using museum specimen data and genetic analysis, which means he had the advantage of studying the birds in the hand, under the best of conditions (e.g. control of lighting and other confounding variables that birders encounter in the field). After summarizing some of the difficulties in noting many of the sometimes subtle color and size differences brought out in McLaren's (1995) paper (see especially the color photos in this paper), Smith (1996) goes on to say that "birders who 'identify" such birds may only be "kidding themselves", and in quoting Phillips (1991) on *Catharus* thrushes in general, "if birds in the hand are so often misidentified by experts...it would be quite illogical to accept the 'well described' sightings of every Tom, Dick, and Harriet."

Also consider Smith's assessment that the best way to determine this species' migratory route (especially as it may apply to Illinois) and phenology would be to review museum specimens (especially those "Gray-cheeks" that may have not been sub-specifically identified) and bird-banding records containing measurements.

I have been trying to determine the identity of a specimen in the Illinois Natural History Survey collection (which was earlier tentatively identified by ornithologist Richard Graber as a "possible bicknelli subspecies").This particular bird was noticeably smaller than the other Gray-cheeked specimens in the drawer, also tentatively identified by Graber as possible *bicknelli.* However, after taking measurements of wing chord (length), tail length, and overall body length, as well as the body weight given on the specimen tag, the measurements mostly fell within the range of overlap with the small minima race of the Gray-cheeked Thrush (see Pyle 1997). On the positive side, the extent of yellow on the lower mandible of the bird seemed to be more than half its length as described by Ouellet (1993).

Another good point brought up by Smith is Rimmer's (1996) strong suggestion that this "new" species may already be endangered, with a total population of no more than 15,000 pairs. It will probably only continue to decline for several reasons, but probably the most serious of which is the destruction of its favored wintering habitat throughout the Caribbean archipelago. If an Illinois birder would like to consider his/her chances of finding a species with this small a population (especially well outside its known migratory flyway), consider the Kirtland's Warbler as a case in point. Kaufman (1995) mentions three possible observations of Kirtland's Warbler in nearby Indiana and western Ohio. However, this is mentioned with the following caveat and hypothesis that out of a probable known minimum of 1,500 Kirtland's Warblers leaving their breeding grounds that fall, there were a total of five reported observations in the species' "normal" migration corridor, anywhere in the rest of the eastern U.S. during fall migration. He then states "In other words, roughly one out of every 300 Kirtland's was actually intercepted by the intense birding coverage of eastern North America", or if applied to all species in general, birders may "miss 299 out of every 300 passerines" migrating through our area!

Anyone trying to identify Bicknell's Thrush in the field in Illinois should throw out their field guides, or at least don't trust the plates or pictures you see, or take the text too literally. You would be better off to study articles by McLaren (1995), Smith (1996), and Rimmer (1996). As stated by McLaren (1996), the field guides available then, as well as the still confusing plumage characteristics (especially color tones) of the new National Geographic Field Guide, only help to confuse someone hoping to derive help in separating the several races and species within the *Catharus* thrush family. Unfortunately, after reading about the difficulties in trying to identify a Bicknell's Thrush in the field, I imagine most of you are now ready to throw up the white flag and surrender! And unfortunately, I have a feeling the only birders in the state who will add this species to their state list are those who hear one sing, or those who have a scientific collecting permit.

Unfortunately, after reading about the difficulties in trying to identify a Bicknell's Thrush in the field, I imagine most of you are now ready to throw up the white flag and surrender!

But, one word of hope! Illinois does have one record of a rare species of thrush that breeds even farther north and northeast and winters even farther east and south than the Bicknell's, in western Africa, which also makes its migratory route through Illinois even more of an unlikely event. That bird is the Northern Wheatear.

If an Illinois birder were to try and find a Bicknell's Thrush in Illinois, a good place to look might be where large numbers of Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and so possibly a few Bicknell's, pass through the state, especially in spring in the extensive forests of the Shawnee National Forest in far southern Illinois, and to a lesser extent in some of the larger remaining forest tracts left in far east-central Illinois, especially in Vermilion County (pers. obs.). Large numbers of Gray-cheeked Thrushes have been killed at TV towers in the latter area (see Seets and Bohlen 1977). This is where the aforementioned INHS specimen of the "possible" Bicknell's was collected on 21 September 1966. However, Gray-cheekeds are extremely scarce in the far west and northwestern portions of the state (M. Baum, pers. com.), and uncommon in northeastern Illinois (Mlodinow 1984), as well as southern Illinois (Robinson 1996), in the fall.

With that said, if you discover an interesting Gray-cheeked Thrush and you think you may have a Bicknell's, try to stay with the bird as long as possible (no easy task with any thrush). Describe the plumage in great detail, especially as it may compare to nearby Gray-cheeks or other *Catharus* thrushes. Take a frame-filling photograph if possible. Maybe your documentation will become Illinois' first non-specimen record for the state!

Note: As of this writing, the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee has yet to vote on the status of two possible Illinois specimens of *bicknelli*, as mentioned in Bohlen (1989).

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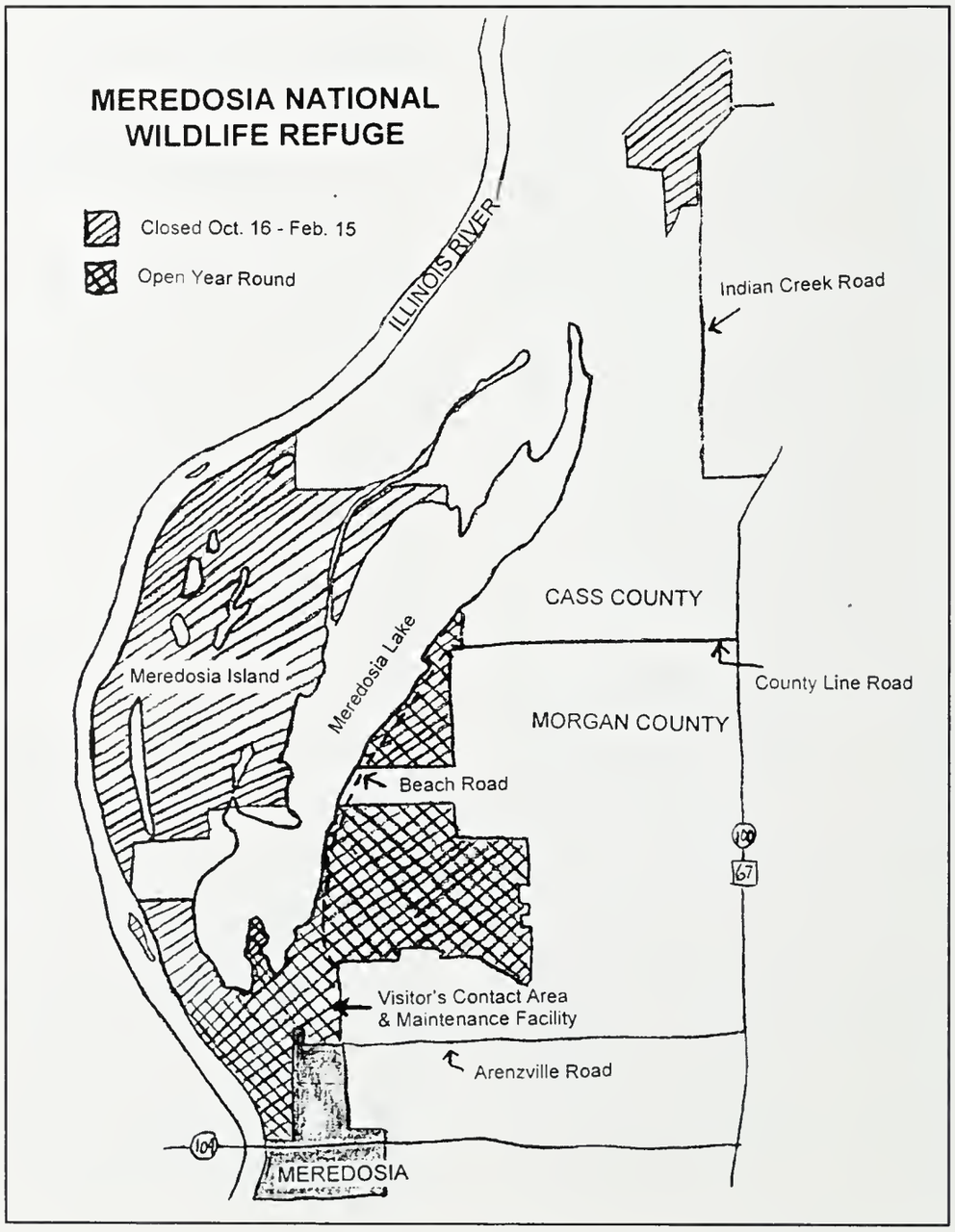
BIRD FINDING GUIDE

Meredosia National Wildlife Refuge

by Angella Moorehouse

The term, Meredosia came from the French "Marais d'Osier" meaning willow swamp. And within a huge "willow swamp" called the Meredosia National Wildlife Refuge (Meredosia Refuge) in southwestern Illinois, birders have catalogued more than 240 avian species. Rare plants and butterflies also thrive in this 4,485-acre refuge located nine miles south of Beardstown and immediately north of Meredosia, Illinois. Portions of the Refuge are in both Cass and Morgan Counties.

Established in 1973, Meredosia Refuge lies within the Mississippi Flyway along the Illinois River floodplain. Much of the Refuge is characterized by bottomland forest and shallow water marsh. Meredosia Lake cuts through the center and northern portions of the Refuge. This lake is managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Meredosia Island lies to the west of the lake and



becomes an island only during high water conditions, generally every spring.

A large portion of Meredosia Refuge was closed to the public until the mid 1990s, but now birders and others have much greater access. Note, however, that Meredosia Island and the Indian Creek Area are closed to the public from October 16 to February 15 to reduce the disturbance to migratory and wintering birds.

Great Egrets breed at the Meredosia National Wildlife Refuge, although their numbers are declining. Photo by Dan Moorehouse.

Members of the Morgan County Audubon Society have cataloged many rarities in the refuge including Sandhill Crane, Snowy Egret, Cinnamon Teal, Ross's Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose, Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, Least Tern, Peregrine Falcon, Sharp-tailed and LeConte's Sparrows, and recently – Fish Crow! A heron rookery is on private land on the north end of Meredosia Island. Due to timber harvesting and high tree morality from the 1993 flood, Great Egrets no longer nest within this rookery, and the number of Great Blue Herons has been declining.

Sloughs and river bottoms

Each fall large numbers of waterfowl and herons utilize Meredosia Lake and backwater sloughs for their abundance of fish and aquatic vegetation. The forested river bottoms of Meredosia Island are comprised of black willow, silver maple, cottonwood, pecan, pin oak, and green ash, which provide natural nesting avities for Wood Ducks, Tree Swallows, and Prothonotary Warblers. Refuge staff also maintain a large number of Wood Duck nest boxes on Meredosia Island. Mockernut hickory, shingle oak, and blackjack oak dominate the upland timber. Sand prairie offers habitat for grassland birds including: Lark Sparrow, Eastern Bluebird, Dickcissel, and Northern Bobwhite.

Some of the best bird-watching opportunities occur along Beach Road, although the road may be flooded during high water. To get to Beach Road from the north on Route 100/67, turn right (west) at County Line Road. Beach Road begins on the other side of the levee. From the south, on Route 100/67, turn left (west) on Arenzville Road and turn right (north) onto Beach Road. A small nature trail leads through the sand prairie at the Visitor's Contact Center and Maintenance Facility – north of Meredosia. The parking lot is on the south end of Beach Road, within the prairie. This trail winds through a grove of pine trees, planted by the previous owner, and onto a wooden boardwalk platform from which you can view a buttonbush swamp. From this overlook you might see a Black-crowned Night-Heron or Sora during the summer. The nature trail is accessible even during high water.

For those more adventurous birders, access to Meredosia Island (Feb. 16 - Oct. 15) from a gravel road north of Indian Creek (turn west off of Route 100/67). This road is flooded or inaccessible for much of the year and the gate may be closed preventing access via dirt road across private land. The north entrance provides a view of the rookery during the summer. Another way to access the Island is from the south end, heading north to northwest from Meredosia along the shoreline of the Illinois River. This access does not have well-defined roads and may require some bush-wacking. A third, a perhaps easier option, would be by boat or canoe across Meredosia Lake. A newly constructed boat ramp is found along Beach Road.

The best time to view birds at Meredosia Refuge is late summer through fall when the largest numbers of migratory shorebirds, waders, and waterfowl are found on Meredosia Lake. Shorebird migration generally begins the first week of July. Peak wader use occurs in late July and August. American White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants are more frequently observed during late summer and early fall as well as during the spring. Ospreys (during the fall and spring) and Belted Kingfishers are frequently seen fishing in the sloughs and along the shores of Meredosia Lake. The peak of the waterfowl migration begins in mid October and runs through early December. Each year in January or February the Refuge hosts Bald Eagle Days in which staff are available to assist visitors with eagle viewing. An average of 20 to 100 Bald Eagles are seen during this event. Late spring and early summer offers the chance to observe breeding residents: Wood Ducks, Prothonotary Warblers, and various woodpeckers.

Rare plants and butterflies

Decurrent false aster, a federally endangered species, blooms in August and September at the Meredosia National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Dan Moorehouse.

In addition to bird-watching, Meredosia Refuge offer opportunities to experience unusual assemblages of wetland plants and a variety of colorful butterflies. The removal of the cabins along Beach Road created a disturbance to the soil, which has benefitted a population of the federally and state threatened plant, decurrent false aster. This plant has a short lifespan, and disturbance of the soil is essential to the germination of new plants. The small daisy-like flowers with pale pink or white rays and a yellow center appear during August and September. Decurrent false aster is named for it leaves that lie decurrent (flat against the stem with winged edges hanging out on each side). Although this plant may appear extremely abundant at Meredosia Refuge during some years, it is a protected species because the only place in the world to find this plant is along the southern two-thirds of of the Illinois River and along the Mississippi River, immediately south of the Illinois River. If conditions do not remain favorable, populations of this plant will disappear.

The east shoreline of Meredosia Lake contains a wide variety of interesting wetland wildflowers, grasses, and sedges. Rose mallow, a member of the hibiscus genus, has large showy pink flowers that bloom in late summer. The water's edge is usually lined in a soft green carpet of marsh spikerush. Tiny bulrushes and nutsedges, not more than 2 or 3 inches tall are also found along the shore. Arrowhead or duck potato, mud plantain, river bulrush, primrose-willow, cardinal flower, swamp marigold, sprangletop, and frog fruit are also found along Beach Road. My favorite shrub, buttonbush - often called buckbrush by local duck hunters, has perfectly round ball-shaped cream white flowersthat provide protective cover for ducks. The seeds of many of these plants provide food for large numbers of waterfowl, blackbirds, sparrows, and finches.

During the mid-late summer, butterflies are attracted to the abundance of nectar from these plants. Some butterflies require wetland plants to serve as larval food sources for their young. Wetland butterflies common at Meredosia Refuge include: bronze copper, great copper, dainty sulfur, cloudless sulfur, little sulfur, viceroy, buckeye, banded hairstreak, Delaware skipper, dun skipper, and common sooty wing. The sand prairies may host the state-threatened regal fritillary, especially during years when the species is more abundant and widespread. This large orange and brown butterfly is generally found in sand prairies and is primarily restricted to Mason, Cass, and Morgan Counties.

The Town of Meredosia offers travelers a choice of several restaurants and gas stations along the main road that runs east-west from the bridge (Route 104). While in the area, I recommend a visit to Meredosia Hill Prairie. This 30-acre hill prairie is owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and is located about 5 miles northeast of Meredosia. From Meredosia heading east on Route 104, turn left on Routes 100/67 and travel north for 0.7 miles. Turn right on blacktop road and travel east to northeast for 2.5 miles. Meredosia Hill Prairie involves a steep climb, but the reward may be a sighting of Bell's Vireo and Yellow-breasted Chat, which both breed here. Blue Grosbeaks have also been reported at this site. Several rare plants are found on this hill prairie such as the pink milkwort and Hill's thistle.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Bill Atwood and Morgan County Audubon, for providing information on birding highlights for the Meredosia region.

Information

Contact Illinois River National Fish & Wildlife Refuges (309) 535-2290; for details on the Meredosia Hill Prairie contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (309) 543-3262.

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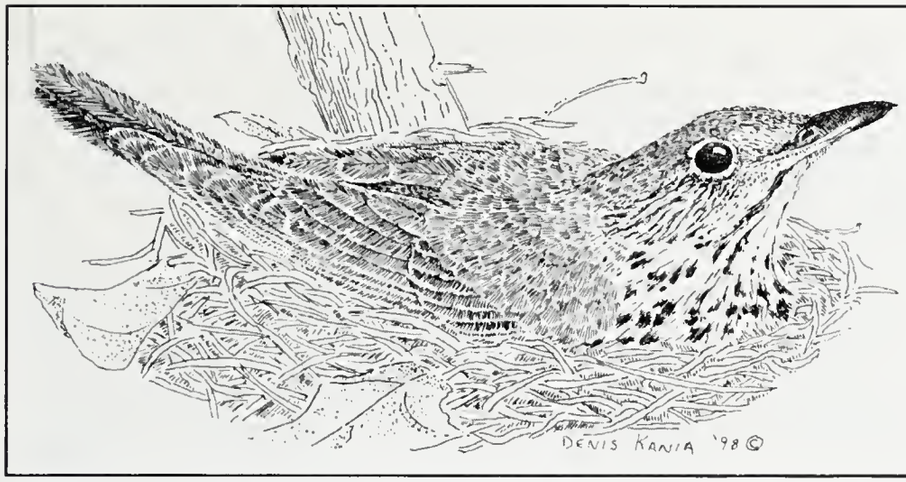

Field Notes

Field Notes Heading drawing of Wood Thrush on nest by Denis Kania.

The 1999 Breeding Season Report

by Vernon M. Kleen

Unlike 1998, rains did not hamper most breeding bird survey work in 1999 and, by the end of the season, Illinois had experienced *too little* moisture. However, several ponds that often dry in northeastern Illinois held water all summer, providing habitat for breeding wetland species. In contrast, the lower than normal water level in Lake Michigan helped expose a sandbar that was used by several summering species.

Some of the more significant, confirmed breeding records this season include the following: Little Blue Herons (2 pairs) nesting at Lake Calumet (first-known northeast Illinois record, see article in this issue for more information); young Green-winged Teal in Boone County; the second confirmed Osprey nest (at the same location as last year) in Cook County; a minimum of 22 successful Bald Eagle nests; a Sharp-shinned Hawk's nest in Champaign County; 3 Sora nests (with 36 eggs) in Lee County; a minimum of 33 Sandhill Crane nests in 8 northeastern counties; 2 broods of Black-necked Stilts in Alexander County (see separate article in this issue); nesting Least Flycatchers in McHenry County and other reports from Lee and Cook counties; and nesting Red-breasted Nuthatches at Sand Ridge State Forest. In addition, there were notable records for the following breeding species: all herons (see accompanying table and map); Wood Duck (large broods), Blue-winged Teal (several broods), Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, King Rail, other rails, moorhens and gallinules, American Coot (several broods), Upland Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull (5000+ nests at Lake Calumet), Herring Gull (4 colonies with 3-19 nests per colony), Common Tern (disrupted nesting), Least Tern (delayed nesting), Eurasian Collared-Doves (expanding distribution), cuckoos (both species scarce), Loggerhead Shrike (19 nests at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area), Fish Crow (up the Kaskaskia River to Carlyle Lake), Sedge Wren (lots of birds), Henslow's Sparrows (continued good showing), and Yellow-headed Blackbird (Mike Ward banded 102 new birds and had 43 returns from last year's banded birds).

Other June and July highlights, which cannot be specifically labeled as late spring departures or early fall arrivals, have been labeled as Non-Breeding Summer Occurrence (NBSO) records. Significant observations that fit this label for 1999 include: lingering loons, the Neotropic Cormorant in northwest Cook County, the continued summer occurrence of American White Pelicans, plenty of lingering waterfowl, the Laughing Gull that returned for the third consecutive year to the southeast Cook County Kentucky Fried Chicken parking lot, the Little Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center (see *Meadowlark* Vol 9 No. 2, our next issue for photos and information on the Little Gull), more Caspian Terns, Illinois' second record of Band-tailed Pigeon (DeWitt County), see separate article in this issue, Northern Saw-whet Owl (McLean County), Tropical/Couch's Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and lingering warblers. As usual, there were several late-departing records of shorebirds, flycatchers, and warblers and early-arriving fall records for the same species; relevant spring data are included in the addenda below, while Jun/Jul migrant arrivals will be included in the fall migration field notes.

A new addition to this report is the status and location of the 1999 heron colonies. The accompanying map shows the location of many of Illinois' colonies including those along the Mississippi River in adjacent Iowa and Missouri; it is quite possible that several colonies, mostly those with 50 or fewer nests, are still to be discovered and reported. Despite modest changes in location, the heron colonies along the Mississippi River appear to be rather stable; however, those along the Illinois River seem to be declining, none of which, if counts/estimates are correct, contain 500 or more nests as they did only a few years ago. Another concern is the declining number of nesting Black-crowned Night-Herons at all colonies except the Alorton colony (near E. St. Louis).

As if competing with last year, more observers provided more information for the 1999 Breeding Season Report than in

As if competing with last year, more observers provided more information for the 1999 Breeding Season Report than in any previous year. We thank each and every one of them and, as last year, hope this trend continues. Speaking of trends, all 81 of Illinois' Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes (which are significant for detecting short-term and long-term population changes in Illinois, the Midwest, and nationwide) were completed this year; so, many, many thanks to all of those observers (nearly all volunteer) for their continued dedication and for taking the responsibility of monitoring Illinois' breeding bird populations seriously year after year. Some of these observers have been doing their routes for 25 or more years. It is possible (if enough observers are available) that Illinois could increase its monitoring potential by adding another 17 BBS routes (one additional route for each one-degree block throughout the state); routes are run on a single day sometime during the month of June. Anyone wishing to assist should contact me for details.

As usual, the success of this report would not have been possible without the dedicated support of Illinois' many amateurs and professionals. Without their continued support, there'd be a paucity of historical information for this period of time. I'd specifically like to thank Steven D. Bailey, Jim Herkert, Jeff Hoover, Brad Semel, Mike Ward, and Jeff Walk for providing key information from their extensive field surveys this year and Richard Bjorklund along with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Natural Heritage field staff for their concise surveys of Illinois' heron colonies in their Districts. The persons responsible for records in the accompanying species accounts have been acknowledged individually after their records. As usual, major effort has been made to be sure that all information is correct and properly acknowledged and can be referenced back to the original source documents placed in the permanent record file. A few records not printed here may still be under review by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC) and should

As a printing aid, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

MC	= Maximum Count	resp.	= respectively	NA	= Natural Area
NBSO	= Non-Breeding Summer Occurrence	m.ob.	= many observers	NC	= Nature Center
BBS	= Breeding Bird Survey	Co(s)	= County(ies)	NWR	= National Wildlife Refuge
IDNR	= Illinois Department of Natural Resources	CA	= Conservation Area	P	= Park
*	= documented record	FP	= Forest Preserve	R	= River
ad	= adult(s)	FWA	= Fish & Wildlife Area	SP	= State Park
subad	= subadult(s)	L	= Lake	Wds	= Woods
imm	= immature(s)				
juv	= juvenile(s)				
yg	= young				
pr(s)	= pair(s)				

A number in parentheses ( ) indicates the number of birds observed at a particular location or on a particular date. No number signifies single birds. Transparent directionals such as e=east(ern), sw=southwest(ern), c=central, etc., are used where relevant. The 1996 DeLorme *Illinois Atlas & Gazetteer* has been used as a standard for spelling of most place names.

Blk-crwnM	= Black-crown Marsh (McHenry Co)
Carl.L	= Carlyle L (Clinton Co)
Chau	= Chautauqua NWR (Mason Co)
Chi	= Chicago, excluding JP & LCal (Cook Co)
Clin.L	= Clinton L (DeWitt Co)
DeerGE	= Deer Grove East FP, Palatine (Cook Co)
DeerGW	= Deer Grove West FP, Palatine (Cook Co)
DesPlWetlands	= Des Plaines R Wetlands Demonstration Project (Lake Co)
EngrM	= Engineers Marsh (Lake/McHenry Cos)
EStL	= East St. Louis (St Clair Co)
Evanston	= Evanston (Cook Co)
Fairland BB	= Fairland BBS (Champaign & Piatt Cos)
Flora BBS	= Flora BBS (Clay Co)
GooseLPr	= Goose L Prairie SP (Grundy Co)
GrtLakes	= Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake Co)
GreenR	= Green River CA (Lee Co)
HL	= Horseshoe L (Madison Co)
HoffmnEst	= Hoffman Estates (Cook Co)
IBSP	= Illinois Beach SP (Lake Co)
IL	= Illinois
JP	= Chicago's Jackson P (Cook Co)
Kidd L	= Kidd L Marsh (Monroe Co)
LCal	= Lake Calumet (Cook Co)
La Salle L	= La Salle L and Nuclear Power Plant (La Salle Co)
LdnMlr	= Lowden-Miller State Forest (Ogle Co)
LRen	= L Renwick (Will Co)
MacArthurWds	= MacArthur Wds FP (Lake Co)
M.Arb	= Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co)
MaxMc	= Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation (Kane Co)
Marseilles	= Illinois National Guard Training Center at Marseilles (La Salle Co)
Mermet L	= Mermet L CA (Massac Co)
MidFk FP	= Middle Fork R County FP (Champaign Co)
MidewinPr	= Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (Will Co)
Monroe Levee	= Mississippi R levee at Monroe Co
Montrose	= Chicago's Montrose Harbor area (Cook Co)
MorHls	= Moraine Hills SP (McHenry Co)
Monticello BBS	= Monticello BBS (Piatt & McLean Cos)
Nachusa	= Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle Cos)
Palos	= Palos area (Cook Co)
Pomona	= Pomona (sw Jackson Co)
PrRdg	= Prairie Ridge State NA (Jasper Co)
RichardsonFdn	= Richardson Wildlife Foundation (Lee Co)
Rice L	= Rice Lake CA (Fulton Co)
Sang.L	= Sangchris L SP (Sangamon Co)
Shab.L	= Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co)
Spfld	= Springfield (Sangamon Co)
SandRdg	= Sand Ridge State Forest (Mason Co)
UCCA	= Union County CA (Union Co)
Urbana	= Urbana (Champaign Co)
Wauk	= Waukegan (Lake Co)
Yale BBS	= Yale BBS (Jasper & Effingham Cos)

appear in an addendum to a future report. The following is the collective list of observers cited in the species accounts of this report: Alan Anderson, Ed Anderson, H. David Bohlen, Dale Birkenholz, Frank Bennett, Nancy Bent, Richard Bjorklund (RBj), Steven D. Bailey, David Cooper, Elizabeth Chato, Karin Cassel, Melinda Born Chapman, Paul Clyne, Robert Chapel, Donald Dann, Larry David, Sheryl DeVore, Josh Engel, Terry Esker, Carolyn Fields, Matt Fraker, Bill Glass, Scott Garrow, Ann Haverstock, Cathie Hutcheson, Frank Holmes, Jim Herkert, Jim Heim (JHm), Jeff Hoover (JHo), Jim Hart (JHt), Leroy Harrison, Scott Hickman, David Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Eric Kershner, Glen Kruse, Richard Konz, Vernon Kleen, Bob Lindsay, Connie Laughlin, James Landing, Tom Lerczak, Vicki Lang, Angella Moorehouse, Cynthia & John McKee, Dan Miller, Edward Mockford, John McDaniel, Joan McKearnan (JMk), Keith McMullen, Margaret Mechtenberg, Roy Morris, Robert A. Montgomery, Rhonda S. Monroe, Thomas May, Walter Marcisz, Debbie Newman, Roy Peterson, Adam Reyburn, David Robson, Elaine Regehr, Jennette Rader, Michael Retter, Roger Reason, Brad Semel, Collin Smith, Douglas F. Stotz, Darrell J. Shambaugh, John Schwegman (JSc), Jody Shimp (JSh), Jim Solum (JSo), James O. Smith, Leonard Stanley, Michelle Simone, Wes Serafin, Craig Thayer, Diane Tecic, Ken Thompson, Dan Williams, Eric Walters, John Wilker, Jefffrey W. Walk and Michael Ward. In addition, the following observers contributed data to the IDNR permanent record: Julie Brooks, Scott Ballard, Steve Byers, Todd Bittner, Dean Corgiat, Jeff Crank, Maggie Cole, Tony Colvin, Chris Diel, Deb Dee, Mark Guetersloh, Amy Horstman, Loren & Gretchen Hughes, Shannon Horn, Dan Kirk, Tim Kelley, Sue Lauzon, Ann Mankowski, Patti Malmborg, Kathy Phelps, Mark Phipps, Mark Pittman, David Ramsden, Jean Ann Robinson, Kim Roman, Larry Rice, Eric Smith, Jen Schaust, Robert Szafoni, Geoff Williamson and Ken Wysocki. Paul Clyne and Sheryl DeVore edited the text for publication in *Meadowlark*.

As standard policy, all observers, regardless of experience, must fully document all unusual observations. Easy-to-use documenation forms are available from the IORC Secretary (Doug Stotz, Environment and Conservation Program, Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60615) or me on request. Completed documentation forms of "review list" species should be submitted to the Secretary of IORC within one week of the observation.

1999 Breeding Season Field Notes

Common Loon

NBSO: Sang.L (subad, calling), 18 Jun (HDB); Buckhart (Sangamon Co) (subad), 4 Jun (HDB); Spfld (ad), 3 Jun (HDB); Olney (Richland Co) (ad), 2 Jun (LH).

Pied-billed Grebe

Nesting: RichardsonFdn (12 nests, 67 eggs, 21 yg), May-Jul (AR); Burnidge FP (Kane Co) (successful), Jun/Jul (RAM); se McHenry Co (2 pr w/ 2 yg each), 7 Aug (BS); Blk-crwnM (2 nests = 6 yg), Jun/Jul (MW); EngrM (2 nests = 4 yg), Jun/Jul (MW); LCal (3 broods, 8 yg), 16 Jun-11 Jul (WM); Calumet P (Cook Co) (yg), 28 Jul (SB); Chi (Eggers Wds) (2 broods, 2 yg each), 13 Jul (DFS); Burnham Prairie (Cook Co) (brood of 3), 13 Jul (DFS); Orland P (Cook Co) (pr w/ 4 yg), 26-27 Jul (SB); Shab.L (brood of 2), 26 Jun (DJS); GooseLPr (brood of 2), 3 Jul (DJS); Wilkinson Renwick Marsh (De Kalb Co) (brood of 2), 24 Jul (DJS). Others: GreenR (2), 6 Jun (C&JM); MorHls (2), 12 Jun (AA); Stickney Run (McHenry Co) (2), Jun/Jul (MW); MacDonald Wds FP (Lake Co), 16 Jun (SH); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (4), Jun/Jul (MW); Wauconda (Lake Co) (4), Jun/Jul (MW); Round L Marsh (Lake Co) (2), Jun/Jul (MW); Crabtree NC (nw Cook Co) (2), 1 Jun (AA); Matteson (Cook Co) (pr), 27-28 Jul (SB); GooseLPr (3), 4 Jun (JH); Monroe Co (3), 7 Jun (KM); Kidd L (8), 12 Jun (SB); w Alexander Co, 26 Jun (DK).

American White Pelican

NBSO: MC: 40, Calhoun Co, 24 Jul (KM); 25, Emiquon NWR (Fulton Co), 19 Jun (RC). Others: Stump L (Jersey Co) (6), 11 Jul (KM); Mark Twain NWR (Calhoun Co) (11), 12 Jun (KT); Monroe Levee (5 flying overhead), 4 Jul (HDB); Carl.L (ad, injured), 13-18 Jul (DK); Rend L (Jefferson Co) (3), 15-18 Jul (DK, *DM); Metropolis (Massac Co) (subad), 19 Jun (JSc).

Double-crested Cormorant

Colonies: Bakers L (Cook Co) (23 nests), 1 Jun (AA) and (350 ad & fledged yg), 27 Jul (CF); Palatine Marsh (South Barrington, Cook Co) (11 nests, success questionable), 1 Jun (AA); HoffmnEst (4 nests, 2 each at separate locations), 20 Jun (AA); Busse Wds FP (Cook Co) (2 nests), 25 Jun (AA); LRen (297 nests), Jun (DR); I & M Canal at Utica (La Salle Co) (100 birds and minimum of 24 nests), 16 Jul (DJS); Worley L (Tazewell Co) (66 nests), 30 Jun (RBj); Rice L (6 nests), 18 Jul (RC); Carl.L (100+ nests), 19 Jun (DK). Others: Batavia (Kane Co), 16 Jun (DJS); Peck L (Kane Co) (2), Jun (DJS); JP (1-3), Jun-Jul (PC et al.); Spfld (1-2), thru 25 Jul (HDB); Sang.L (1-2), thru 25 Jul (HDB); Stump L (Jersey Co) (20), 11 Jul (KM); Kidd L (12 & 17), 18 & 24 Jun, resp. (DK); sw Jackson Co (numbers increasing), 17 Jul (RSM). Small numbers of non-nesting birds were also reported from several Cook Co locations (AA). See Table 1 for nesting summary.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT

Crabtree NC (Cook Co), 11 May-12 Jun (AA, *m.ob.).

Least Bittern

Nesting: Stickney Run (McHenry Co) (6 ad, 3 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); MorHls (4 ad, 3 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); EngrM (4 ad, 1 nest), Jun/Jul (MW); Blk-crwnM (5 ad, 2 nests), Jun/Jul (WM); Wauconda (Lake Co) (4 ad, 1 nest), Jun/Jul (MW). Others: RichardsonFdn (pr + 3 birds), Jun-20 Jul (AR); GreenR (3 males), 6 Jun (C&JM); Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co) (ad), 31 May (DFS); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (2 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); DesPlWetlands (2), Jun/Jul (MW); Round L (Lake Co) (ad), Jun (MW); Wauk (North Point Marina), 19 Jun (SH); LCal (2), Jun/Jul (MW); Chi (Eggers Wds) (2), Jun/Jul (MW); Banner Marsh (Fulton Co), 17 Jul (RC); PrRdg, 11 Jun (LH); Salem (Marion Co), 27 Jun (RC); Kidd L (2-6), thru 12 Jun (SB); Mermet L (several), Jun-Jul (m.ob.).

TABLE 1	# Colonies	# Nests
Double-crested Cormorant	8	650+
Great Blue Heron	73*	10,200+*
Great Egret	25*	1900-*
Snowy Egret	1	10
Little Blue Heron	1	237
Cattle Egret	2	314
Black-crowned Night-Heron	5	600+

* 12 additional Great Blue Heron colonies (2000 nests) and 4 Great Egret colonies (80 nests) on the Iowa and Missouri sides of the Mississippi R.

Great Blue Heron

Colonies: Palatine Marsh (South Barrington, Cook Co) (12 nests), 1 Jun (AA); Bakers L (Cook Co) (54 nests, 172 birds present), 1 Jun (AA); Busse Wds (Cook Co) (84 nests, 251 birds present, including

163 yg still in nests), 25 Jun (AA); LRen (161 nests), Jun (DR); Plano (Kendall Co) (17 nests), 4 Apr (DJS); Worley L (Tazewell Co) (248 nests), 30 Jun (RBj); Clear L (Mason Co) (418 nests), 29 Jun (RBj); nw Stephenson Co (single nest in forest block), 19 May (SB). Others: Monroe Levee (207), 4 Jul (HDB); Stump L (Jersey Co) (150), 24 Jul (KM); Carl.L (37), 19 Jun (DK). See Table 1 for nesting summary.

Great Egret
Colonies: Bakers L (Cook Co) (38 nests), 1 Jun (AA) and (175 ad & fledged yg), 2 Aug (CF); Busse Wds (Cook Co) (5 nests), 25 Jun (AA); LCal (20 nests), May-Jul (WM); LRen (352 nests), Jun (DR); Worley L (Tazewell Co) (116 nests), 30 Jun (RBj); Clear L (Mason Co) (33 nests), 29 Jun (RBj); Alorton (EStL) (100's of nests), 11 Jun (VK). Others: Stickney Run (McHenry Co) (25), Jun/Jul (MW); EngrM (20), Jun/Jul (MW); Blk-crownM (90 in roost), Jun/Jul (MW); Lake Villa (Lake Co) (5), Jun (MW); Orland P (Cook Co) (35), 26-27 Jul (SB); Matteson (Cook Co) (20), 26-28 Jul (SB); Sang.L (3), Jun/Jul (HDB); Stump L (Jersey Co) (300), 11 Jul (KM); Monroe Co (310), 19 Jul (KM); Emiquon NWR (Fulton Co) (200+), 19 Jun (RC); Monroe Levee (189), 4 Jul (HDB); E. Cape Girardeau (Alexander Co) (121), 12 Jun (DM); Carl.L (5), 10 Jun (DK). See Table 1 for nesting summary.

Snowy Egret
Colonies: Alorton (EStL) (10 nests), Jun (DT). MC: 40, Alexander/Union Cos, 24 Jun (DFS); 25, Monroe Co, 25 Jun (KM); 18, Monroe Levee, 14 Jul (DK). Others: Bakers L (Cook Co) (2 ad), 13 Jun (CF); La Salle L, 30 Jul (C&JM). See Table 1 for nesting summary.

Little Blue Heron
Colonies: **LCal** (2 nests), 30 Jun-25 Jul (WM)–**first confirmed nesting for ne IL**, see article in this issue; Alorton (EStL) (237 nests), Jun (DT). MC: 200, Alexander Co, 21 Jun (KM). Others: Stickney Run (McHenry Co) (ad), 15 Jun (MW); Bakers L (Cook Co), 25 Jul (1 ad, 3 imm), 2 Aug (1 ad, 10 imm), and 5 Aug (1 ad, 14 imm) (CF); Monroe Levee (90 ad, 19 juv/imm), 4 Jul (HDB); Lenzburg (St. Clair Co) (104), 19 Jul (TM); Carl.L (20 imm), 24 Jul (DK); UCCA (7), 10 Jun (VK, CH). See Table 1 for nesting summary.

Cattle Egret
Colonies: LRen (2 nests), Jun (DR); Alorton (EStL) (310 nests), Jun (DT). MC: 40, HL, 11 Jul (KM); 39, E. Cape Girardeau (Alexander Co), 10 Jun (VK, CH). Others: O'Brien Lock & Dam (Cook Co), 10 Jul (DFS); Mason Co (6), 3 Jul (KM); Homer (Champaign Co), 7 Jun (JOS); Monroe Levee (23 & 34), 24 Jun & 5 Jul, resp. (DK); Albers (Clinton Co) (3), 16 Jun (SB); Lenzburg (St. Clair Co), 11 Jun (SB); s Pope Co (3), 9 Jun (VK). See Table 1 for nesting summary.

Green Heron
Nesting: Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (8 ad, 3 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); Montrose (successful nesting), Jun-Jul (JL); JP (successful nesting, 2-3 prs), Jun-Jul (PC); Homer (Vermilion Co) (2 nests, 1 successful), Jun (JOS); Carbondale (Jackson Co) (nest), 20 May (VL fide RSM); Spfld (yg), 11 Jul (HDB); Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (4 yg nearly fledged), 3 Jul (RSM, VL). MC: 9, Alexander/Union Cos, 24 Jun (DFS); 8, Spfld, 17 Jul (HDB); 8, Elkville (Jackson Co), 3 Jun (SB); 6, IBSP, 6 Jun (DFS); 6, Longjohn Slough (Palos), 26 Jul (SB); 6, Spfld, 8 Jun (HDB); 6, Kidd L, 12 Jun (SB); 6, Herrin (Williamson Co), 4 Jun (SB); 5, Orland P (Cook Co), 27 Jul (SB); 4, Poplar Grove FP (Cook Co), 20 Jun (AA); 4, Carl.L, 17 Jun (SB); 4, Monroe Levee, 5 Jul (DK); 4, Alexander Co, 26 Jun (KM). Others: Urbana, 6 Jun-25 Jul (ER).

Black-crowned Night-Heron
Colonies: Bakers L (Cook Co) (3 nests, several yg), Jun/Jul (CF); LCal (Big Marsh) (none–water too high), but (Indian Ridge) (estimated 400), May/Jul (WM), with first juv noted 19 Jun (JL); LRen (65), Jun (DR); Worley L (Tazewell Co) (15 nests), 30 Jun (RBj); Alorton (EStL) (124), Jun (DT). MC (away from colonies): 74, JP, 1 Jun (PC); 47, Evanston/Wilmette (Cook Co), 12 Jun (EW). Others: Stickney Run (McHenry Co) (10), late Jun (MW); Blk-crownM (20+ in roost), Jun/Jul (MW); IBSP (3), 25 Jun (SH); GrtLakes (3), 10 Jul (SH); Chi (Eggers Wds) (10+), Jun/Jul (MW); Spfld (ad & yg–may have bred here), Jun/Jul (HDB); Madison Co (9), 7 Jun (KM); Monroe Levee (4), 4 Jul (HDB); Kidd L (11), 31 Jul (DK). See Table 1 for nesting summary.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Nesting: Granite City (Madison Co) (pr building nest), 11 Apr, then (3 nests by 29 Apr and 4th nest, 29 May), and (3-5 yg/nest), 27-30 Jun (FH); Alorton (EStL) (4 nests), 23 Jun (DT); Cache River Watershed (3 counties) (3 nests), May/Jun (JHo). Others: LCal (1 ad & 2 ad), 19 Jun (WM) & 6 Jul (DFS); L Shelbyville (Shelby Co), 28 Jul (RC); Carl.L, 3 Jul (DK); ne St. Clair Co (probably nesting), 14 Jul (DT); w Wabash Co (ad–possibly nesting), 24 Jun (SB); Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co), 12 Jun (RSM).

Turkey Vulture
MC: 39, Carl.L, 3 Jul (DK); 37 & 35 (roost), Spfld, 5 Jun & 2 Jul, resp. (HDB); 21, Monroe Co, 19 Jul (KM). Others: Castle Rock SP (Ogle Co) (9), 20 Jun (SD, SB); Cook Co (3 locations), 19 Jun-10 Jul (AA).

Snow Goose
NBSO: Spfld (ad "blue"), Jun/Jul (HDB); Monroe Co, 25 Jun (KM); Baldwin L (St. Clair Co) (2 injured), 11 Jun (DK); Carl.L (injured), 16-27 Jul (DK); Simpson (Johnson Co) (2 ad "white"), Jun/Jul (MR).

Canada Goose
Nesting: MaxMc (record number of nesting attempts), Mar-May (RAM); JP (1st brood), 25 Apr (PC), and (140 yg), Jun-Jul (PC); Chi (Wolf L) (7 broods = 37 yg), 17 Jun (DFS); Shab.L (several groups of fledglings), 2 May (DJS); Spfld (23 broods, 1-8 yg/brood–average = 4.57 yg), 12 Apr thru 30 Jun (HDB). MC: 95 & 70, Spfld, 17 Jul & 14 Jun, resp. (HDB); 55, Monroe Co, 19 Jul (KM); 22, Monroe Levee, 24 Jun (DK). Appear to have done well throughout ne IL (RAM).

Mute Swan
Breeding: MorHls (2 ad, 6 yg), Jun/Jul (MW); Blk-crwnM (2 ad, 4 yg), Jun/Jul (MW); Volo Bog (Lake Co), Mar (JE fide EW); Wauconda (Lake Co) (nest), Jun/Jul (MW); Round L Marsh (Lake Co) (2 ad, 6 yg), Jun/Jul (MW); MacDonald Wds FP (Lake Co) (pr w/ 7 yg), 25-29 May and (3 yg), 16 Jun (SH); Arlington Heights (Cook Co) (pr w/ 5 yg), 21 May (CF); Bakers L area (Cook Co) (2 pr, 5 & 6 yg), 26 May-1 Jun (CF, AA); Chi (Eggers Wds) (1 yg), 2 Jun (DFS); LCal (1 yg), 5 Jun-5 Jul (WM, m.ob.); Chi (Powder Horn L) (2 yg), 30 Jun (DFS); Spfld (5 yg), 17 Jun (HDB); Buckhart (Sangamon Co) (3 yg), 17 Jun (HDB). MC: 18 (ad), Chi (Wolf L), 2 Jun (DFS); 9, Spfld, 17 Jun (HDB). Others: EngrM (2), Jun/Jul (MW); Salem (Marion Co), 26 Jun (RC).

Wood Duck
Nesting: Redwing Slough (Lake Co) (2 broods, 5 & 7 yg), Jun (DFS); Poplar Creek FP (Cook Co) (brood of 8), 20 Jun (AA); Busse Wds FP (Cook Co) (2 broods, 4 & 2 yg), 25 Jun (AA); Robinson Wds FP (Cook Co) (7 yg), 9 Jul (AA); Rosemont (Cook Co) (11 yg), 13 Jul (AA); JP (brood of 16), 19 May (KC fide PC); LCal (3 yg), 19 Jun (WM); Palos (2 broods of 9), 18 Jun (DFS); Mendota (La Salle Co) (5 yg), 8 May (DJS); Shab.L (3 ad, 16 yg), 6 Jun (DJS); Heyworth (McLean Co) (8 broods), 14 Jun (MF); (2 broods, 9 & 10 yg), 24 Jun (DFS); Spfld (19 broods, 1-13 yg/brood–average = 6.79), 9 May thru 27 Jul (HDB); Carl.L (5 ad + 6 yg), 17 Jun (SB) and (9 ad w/ yg), 19 Jun (DK); Lake Lola (Bond Co) (2 broods of 6 & 7 + 11 other birds), 18 Jun (SB); Dongola (Union Co) (brood of 5), 28 May (SB). MC: 250, Stump L (Jersey Co), 24 Jul (KM); 90, Spfld, 26 Jul (HDB); 79, Kidd L, 18 Jun (DK); 69 (61 ad), Deer L FP (Lake Co), 5 Jul (EW); 50 (ad & imm), Barrington (Cook Co), 2 Aug (CF); 50, Kidd L, 12 Jun (SB); 35, Kaskaskia R (Randolph Co), 30 Jun (DK); 27, Shab.L, 23 Jul (Dsh); 27, Rend L (Franklin

Co), 4 Jul (DK); fewer broods and numbers this year at Vermilion Co (JOS).

Gadwall
NBSO: GrtLakes (male & female), 19 Jun & 2 Jul, resp. (EW); Rice L, 25 Jul (RC); Carl.L (male), 19 Jun (DK); Fults (Monroe Co) (pr), 11 Jun (SB) and (male) at Kidd L, 18-24 Jun (DK). .

American Wigeon
NBSO: Kidd L (male), 18 Jun (DK).

Black Duck
NBSO: Spfld, 16 Jun (HDB).

Mallard
Nesting: JP (4 broods = 28 yg), 19 May (PC, KC) and (brood of 5 about 3 days old), 10 Aug (PC); Orland P (Cook Co) (3 broods, 24 yg); 27 Jul (SB); Spfld (30 broods, 2-13 yg/brood–average = 6.03), 28 Apr thru 24 Jul (HDB); PrRdg (10 nests), Apr-Jun (JWW, EK). MC: 211, Monroe Co, 19 Jul (KM); 150 (all in "female" plumage), Barrington marsh (Cook Co), 18 Jul (CF); 133, Monroe Levee, 25 Jun (DK); 85, Carl.L, 19 Jun (DK); 80 & 65, Spfld, 12 Jun & 31 Jul, resp., (HDB); 56, Kidd L, 18 Jun (DK).

Blue-winged Teal
Nesting: Garden Prairie Slough (Boone Co) (4 ad, 6 yg), Jun/Jul (MW); EngrM (brood of 16), Jun/Jul (MW); LCal (female w/ 7 yg), 13 Jul (DFS); PrRdg (nest), May (JWW, EK) and (3 yg), 11 Jun (LH); Joppa (Massac Co) (2 males + female w/ 5 yg), 30 Jul (FB). Others: Stickney Run (McHenry Co) (2 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); MorHls (2 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); Blk-crwnM (2 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (2 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); Wauconda (Lake Co) (4 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); DeerGW (2 males), 3 Jun (CF); DeerGE (male), 14 Jun (CF); GrtLakes (3 & 2), 15 Jun & 9 Jul, resp. (EW); Orland P (Cook Co) (6–female plum.), 26-27 Jul (SB); MidewinPr (3), 2 Jun (JH); GooseLPr (5), 4 Jun (JH); Fulton Co (2), 3 Jul (KM); Spfld (3 males), 16 Jun (HDB); Buckhart (Sangamon Co) (male), 8 Jun (HDB); Carl.L (4), 13 Jul (DK); St. Clair Co (female), 4 Jul (HDB); Monroe Levee (2 males, female), 25 Jun (DK); Kidd L (male), 18 Jun (DK); Alexander Co (2), 26-29 Jun (FB, KM, DJS).

Northern Shoveler
NBSO: Buckhart (Sangamon Co) (male), 12 Jun (HDB); St. Clair Co (female), 4 Jul (HDB).

Northern Pintail
NBSO: Montrose, 15 Jun (JL); Carl.L (male), 15-18 Jul (DK); Monroe Co, 19 Jul (KM); Monroe Levee (male), 4 Jul (HDB) and (female), 31 Jul (DK).

Green-winged Teal
Nesting: Garden Prairie Slough (Boone Co) (2 ad, 1 yg), 25 Jun (MW). NBSO: GrtLakes (2 males), 15 Jun (EW); Rainbow Beach (Cook Co) (3 males), 17 Jun (DFS); LCal (female), 10 Jul (DFS); Emiquon NWR (Fulton Co) (3), 19 Jun (RC); Carl.L (female), 27 Jul (DK); ne Jackson Co (male), 3 Jun (SB); sw Jackson Co, 12-13 Jun (RSM, m.ob.).

Canvasback
NBSO: Spfld (female), thru 9 Jul (HDB); Newton L (Jasper Co), 14 Jul (*JWW); Monroe Levee (male), 11 Jun-4 Jul (SB, HDB).

Redhead
NBSO: Burnham Prairie (Cook Co) (female), 17 Jun-15 Jul (DFS); La Salle L (male), 17-30 Jul (C&JM).

Ring-necked Duck
NBSO: Wilmette (Cook Co) (female, 4th consecutive summer), Jun/Jul (EW).

Greater Scaup
NBSO: GrtLakes (male), 19-25 Jun (EW).

Lesser Scaup
NBSO: Wauk (male), 26 Jun (DFS); Evanston (2 males), 12 Jun (EW); La Salle L (2 males), 4 Jul (C&JM); Spfld (male), 2-13 Jun (HDB); Sang.L (male), 2-16 Jun (HDB).

Bufflehead
NBSO: Blk-crwnM (injured female), Jun/Jul (MW).

Hooded Merganser
Nesting: Shab.L (brood of 6), 6 Jun (DJS); Garden Prairie Slough (Boone Co) (2 ad, 8 yg), 25 Jun (MW); MaxMc (successful brood), May/Jun (RAM); EngrM (2 ad, 4 yg), Jun/Jul (MW); Burnham Prairie (Cook Co) (2 yg), 30 Jun-13 Jul (DFS); Spfld (yg), 19 May (HDB); Arcola (Douglas Co) (2 juv), 5 Jul (RC); sw Union Co (2 broods of 7 yg), 24 Jun (DFS); Alexander Co (3 fledged yg), 24-29 Jun (DFS, DJS); Kidd L (female w/ 4 yg), 30 May (DK). Others: DeerGE (ad female), 1 Jun (CF); GrtLakes (3 & 1), 15 Jun, & thru 2 Jul, resp. (EW); Wilmette (Cook Co), 18 Jun (EW); JP (3), 19 May-10 Jun (KC et al. fide PC); La Salle L (female), 4 Jul (C&JM); Carl.L (female), 8 Jun (DK); Monroe Levee (2), 24 Jun (DK); Ullin (Pulaski Co) (female, perhaps nesting), 26 May (SB).

Common Merganser
NBSO: Spfld (male), Jun/Jul (HDB).

Red-breasted Merganser
NBSO: Rainbow Beach (Cook Co) (female), 17 Jun (DFS); GrtLakes (perhaps injured), 10-19 Jun (EW); Dallas City (Henderson Co) (female), 3 Jun (VK).

Ruddy Duck
NBSO: RichardsonFdn (male), 7 Jun (AR); EngrM (male), thru 25 Jun (MW); Burnham Harbor (Cook Co) (female), 29 Jun (DFS); Olney (Richland Co), Jun/Jul (LH).

Osprey
Nesting: Bergman Slough (s Cook Co) (nest), May (2 fledglings) thru 25 Jul (CT, m.ob.). Others: Palos (Saganashkee Slough), 27 Jul (SB); w Grundy Co, 9 Jun (DFS); Olney (Richland Co), 6 & 25 Jun and 18 Jul (LH).

Mississippi Kite
Nesting: Cache River Watershed (3 nesting sites), May/Jun (JHo). MC: 22, UCCA, 24 Jun (DFS); 20, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co), 18 Jun (DK); 13, Thebes (Alexander Co), 13 Jun (SB et al.). Others: Spfld (ad), 9 Jun (HDB).

Bald Eagle
Nesting: Mississippi R Pool 12 (4 active nests), mid Apr (CS fide EA); Mississippi R Pool 13 (4 active nests), mid-Apr (CS fide EA); Apple R (Jo Daviess Co) (active nest), mid-Apr (CS fide EA); Lowden Rock (Ogle Co) (2 yg), Jul (JHm); Pecatonica (Winnebago Co) (1 yg), (JHm); Rockton (Winnebago Co) (2 yg), May-Jul (DW); Henry (Marshall Co) (active nest w/ at least 1 yg), 11 May (MS); Chau (3 active nests), Mar-Jun (RBj, JW); Randolph Co (3 yg fledged), 23 Jul (DT); sw Saline Co (active nest), 17 Mar (DC); e Gallatin Co (active nest), 27 May (JSh); UCCA (3 nests), Mar-Jun (KM, m.ob.); Cypress Creek NWR (nest), Mar-Jun (KM); Horseshoe L (Alexander Co) (nest), Mar-Jun (KM, m.ob.). **Nest summary**: Of the 36 active nests in IL this year, 22 were known to be successful (fledging 36 yg); the results of 8 were not available in time for this report; some nests were lost (with yg still in them) in violent wind storms on 16 May (in nw IL) and 17 May (in s IL). Others records: Pere Marquette SP (Jersey Co) (2 ad, 1 imm), 11 Jul (KM); Old Maeystown Creek (Monroe Co) (2 juv), 24 Jun (DK); Monroe Levee (ad & juv), 2 & 31 Jul (DK); Carl.L (ad & juv), 16 & 27 Jul (DK); Wabash Co (ad), 3-18 Jul (LH).

Northern Harrier
Nesting: PrRdg (3 nests, 2 of these fledged 9 yg), May-Jul (JWW, EK). MC: 12, PrRdg, 13 Jul (JWW). Others: nw Stephenson Co (ad female), 6 Aug (SB); Garden Prairie (Boone Co) (female), 12 Jul (DFS); e Iroquois Co (female), 17 Jun (VK); s Wayne Co (female), 23 Jun (SB); Monroe Co, 4 Jun (KM).

Sharp-shinned Hawk
Nesting: Homer (Vermilion Co) (active nest, number yg fledged unknown), 8 May into Jun (JOS). Others: Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co), 1 Jun (RP); Fox River (Kendall Co) (ad), 7 Jul (DFS).

Cooper's Hawk
Nesting: Evanston (nest-building), 12 Apr, abandoned 14 May (EW); LCal (pr at nest), 19 Jun (WM); Palos (Swallow Cliffs FP) (fledgling), 10 Jul (DFS); sw Cook Co (3 successful nests), May-Jul (WS); Urbana (3 families with fledged yg), Jun-Jul (EC, RC, m.ob.); Chau (successful nest), Jun-Jul (fide RC); Spfld (2 yg), 12 Jul (HDB); Belleville (St. Clair Co) (5 yg in nest), 11 Jun (DK); Murphysboro (Jackson Co) (nesting cycle observed), Mar-Jul, (yg fledged), 2 Jul (CL fide RSM). Others: Castle Rock SP (Ogle Co), 20 Jun (SD, SB); Woodstock (ad), 30 Jul (SB); MorHls (2 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (2), Jun/Jul (MW); Mundelein (Lake Co) (3 ad), Jun/Jul (SB, SD); Busse Wds FP (Cook Co), 25 Jun (AA); Poplar Creek FP (Cook Co), 20 Jun (AA); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (ad), 7 Jul (SB); Sang.L, 6 Jul (HDB); Carl.L (ad), 28 Jun (DK); Jasper Co (2), 14 Jun (LH); Olney (Richland Co), 6 Jun (LH); Wabash Co, 18 Jul (LH); Kaskaskia R (Randolph Co) (DK); Millstadt (St. Clair Co), 21 Jul (DK); Elkville (Jackson Co) (pr), 2-3 Jun (SB). "Widespread" in s Cook County (WM).

Cooper's Hawk near its Evanston nest on 24 April 1999. Photo by Eric Walters.

Red-shouldered Hawk
Nesting: Hormell Landing (Bureau Co) (at least one yg produced), 20 Mar-15 May (DJS); Starved Rock SP (2 at nest), 3 Apr (C&JM). Others: Paul Wolff NC (Kane Co), 18 Jul (KM); Kaskaskia R (Washington Co) (2), 10 May (DN); Madison Co, 19 Jun (KM); Monroe Co, 18 Jul (KM); Pomona, 4 Jul (DK); sw Pulaski Co, (4), 10 Jun (VK, CH); Mermet L (2), 27 Jun (DK).

Broad-winged Hawk
MacArthurWds, 15 Jun (SD); DeerGW (ad calling in area of nest), 18 & 26 Jun (CF); Palos (Swallow Cliffs FP) (pr), late May/early Jun (DFS); Tinley P (Cook Co), 10 Jul (DFS); Chi (Eggers Wds), 13 Jul (DFS); Pomona, 4 Jul (DK); w Union Co, 24 Jun (DFS).

Swainson's Hawk
Nesting: nw Kane Co (2 territorics, but only 1 nest observed–which successfully fledged 2 yg), May-7 Aug (RAM,SB,SD); s McHenry Co (1 nest with 1 presumed fledgling), 3 Jul (fide RAM).

Red-tailed Hawk
Nesting: LCal (3 nests), May/Jun (WM); sw Cook Co (6 nests), Apr-Jul (WS); Homer (Vermilion Co) (3 successful nests on one farm) (JOS). MC: 7, Spfld, 3 & 18 Jul (HDB); 5, Madison Co, 16 Jun (DK). "Krider's Hawk": Barrington Hills (Cook Co), all summer (fide AA).

American Kestrel
Nesting: nw Kane Co, (4 successful nests), Apr-Jul (RAM); Atkinson (Henry Co) (5 ad, 8 yg), 14 Jul (SB); Sangamon Co (5 nest boxes = 19 banded yg), 27 May (JHt); Homer (Vermilion Co) (2 fledged) (JOS). MC: 30, Granite City (Madison Co), 11 Jul (KM); 17 (hovering over the same field at same time), LCal, 28 Jul (WM); 14, De Kalb and La Salle Cos, 15 Jul (DJS); 12, s De Kalb Co (25 mile bike trip), 25 Jul (DJS).

Peregrine Falcon
Nesting: Evanston (pr w/ 4 yg), Apr-Jun (JE fide EW) and (1 yg) present to 10 Aug (EW). Others: Chicago-area: 9 sites occupied by Peregrines this year; only two have confirmed nesting (fide Peregrine Report), 10 May (fide GK); Newton (Jasper Co) (banded 1st-year bird unafraid of humans, captured in grain elevator and taken to rehabilitation center), 30 Jul (TE); EStL (2), 8 Jun (KM).

Gray Partridge
Nesting: nw Kane Co (female w/ 5 yg), 7 Aug–species not usually findable more than once or twice each year (RAM).

Ring-necked Pheasant
MC: 46, Monticello BBS, 5 Jun (RC); 34, Livingston Co, 16 Jun (VK); 26, Iroquois Co, 17 Jun (VK); Sangamon Co, very scarce all summer (HDB). **Survey results**: 1999 surveys (both IDNR and BBS routes) indicate that the pheasant population declined approximately 17% statewide since 1998 for at least the 4th consecutive year of decline for this species (LD).

Greater Prairie-Chicken
Nesting: PrRdg (8 nests), Apr-Jun and (11 broods), May-Jul (JWW, EK).

Wild Turkey
Nesting: Kaskaskia R (St. Clair Co) (ad w/ 7 yg), 27 Jul (TM); Sang.L (yg), 16 Jul (HDB). MC: 18 (males), Sesser (Franklin Co), 9 Jun (SB); 12 (males), Atkinson (Henry Co), 14-15 Jul (SB); 10 (family group), SandRdg, 12 Aug (SB); 9 (mostly yg), nw Stephenson Co, 2 Aug (SB); 8, Marseilles, 8 Jul (C&JM); 7, Spfld, 25 Jul (HDB); 6, Madison Co, 16 Jun (DK). Others: Dudleyville (Bond Co) (male), 18 Jun (SB); Walpole (Hamilton Co) (female), 9 Jun (SB).

Northern Bobwhite
Nesting: Sang.L (7 yg), 29 Jul (HDB). MC: 72, Flora BBS, 6 Jun (RC); 45, Johnson Co, 11 Jun (VK); 31, Pope Co, 9 Jun (VK); 31, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 30, Menard Co, 18 Jun (VK); 26, White Co, 22 Jun (VK); 24, Madison Co, 19 Jun (KM); 21, se Kankakee Co, 19 Jun (DFS); 21, Clinton Co, 10 Jun (DK). Others: Silver Springs SP (Kendall Co), 5 Jul (DFS). **Survey results**: 1999 surveys (both IDNR and BBS routes) indicate that the bobwhite population declined nearly 30% statewide since 1998 (LD).

King Rail
Nesting: PrRdg (8 eggs), 17 Jun (LH); e Perry Co, (pr w/ 5 yg), 20 Jul (LS). Others: IBSP (2), 30 May (SD, SB); Orland P (Cook Co) (pr calling), 27 Jul (SB); GooseLPr (territory), 22 May (EW).

Virginia Rail
RichardsonFdn (5 prs), May-Jul (AR); GreenR, 6 Jun (C&JM); Stickney Run (McHenry Co) (2), Jun/Jul (MW); Wauconda (Lake Co) (2), Jun/Jul (MW); Lake Villa (Lake Co) (2), Jun/Jul (MW); IBSP (2), 30 May (SD, SB); Orland P (Cook Co) (pr calling), 27 Jul (SB); Chi (Eggers Wds), 2 Jun (DFS); Chi (Hyde L Wetland) (3 heard), 26 Jun (WM); GooseLPr (3), 18 Jul (KM).

Sora
Nesting: RichardsonFdn (3 nests, 36 eggs), May-Jul (AR). Others: MorHls (2), Jun/Jul (MW): Nelson L (Kane Co), 31 May (DFS); IBSP (4), 30 May (SD, SB); Chi (Hyde L Wetland) (heard), 26 Jun (WM); Orland P (Cook Co) (calling), 27 Jul (SB); Palos, 3 Jun (DFS); MidewinPr, 1 Jun (JH); GooseLPr, 4 Jun (JH).

PURPLE GALLINULE
RichardsonFdn, 19 May-22 Jun (*AR); Mermet L (1-2 ad), 9-26 Jun+ (MR, KM). See *Meadowlark* Vol. 8.4 for an account of this species' 1999 "invasion."

Common Moorhen
Nesting: Stickney Run (McHenry Co) (8+ ad, 6 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); MorHls (6 ad, 3 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); EngrM (6 ad, 2 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); Blk-crwnM (10 ad, 5 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); Round L (Lake Co) (2 ad, 1 nest), Jun (MW); Deer L FP (Lake Co) (pr + 6 yg), 5 Jul (EW); LCal (3 broods = 12 yg and 2 more ads), 19 Jun-

5 Jul (WM), with juv still present, 31 Jul (JL); Chi (Eggers Wds) (8 ad, 3 nests + broods), Jun/Jul (MW, m.ob.); Burnham Prairie (Cook Co) (ad & 3 yg), 6 Jul (DFS); Arcola (Douglas Co) (ad & juv), 28 Jul (RC). MC: 12 (calling birds), Kidd L, 12 Jun (SB). Others: RichardsonFdn (2 prs), May-Jul (AR); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (2 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); Wauconda (Lake Co) (4 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); MacDonald Wds FP (Lake Co), 23 Jun (SH); Lake Villa (Lake Co) (4), Jun/Jul (MW); Paul Wolff NC (Kane Co), 18 Jul (KM); L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co), 5 Jul (RC); Kidd L (2), 24 Jun (DK).

American Coot

Nesting: RichardsonFdn (24 nests, 147 eggs, 39 yg), May-Jul (AR); Stickney Run (McHenry Co) (6 ad, 8 yg), Jun/Jul (MW); MorHls (4 ad, 3 yg), Jun/Jul (MW); Paul Wolff NC (Kane Co) (yg), 18 Jul (KM). Others: EngrM (6 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); Blk-crwnM (2 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (2 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); Wauconda (Lake Co) (4 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); LCal (4), Jun/Jul (MW, m.ob.); Chi (Eggers Wds) (4), Jun/Jul (MW); Arcola (Douglas Co) (10 ad), 5 Jul (RC); Spfld (2), Jun/Jul (HDB); Carl.L, 24 Jun (DK); HL, 19-25 Jun (KM); Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); Kidd L (2-3), 11-12 Jun (SB). Scarce (compared to other recent years) in ne IL (DFS, WM).

Sandhill Crane

Nesting in the following counties: Winnebago Co: (pr w/ 2 eggs), 8 May (DW); Boone Co: Garden Prairie Slough (pr w/ yg), Jun/Jul (MW); McHenry Co: Stickney Run (6 ad, 2 nests, 3 yg), Jun/Jul (MW); Alden Sedge Meadow (2 ad, nest likely), 4 May (BS); Bates Fen (2 ads, nest), 4 May (BS); Bull Valley (2 ads, nest); McHenry Dam SP (2 ads, nest), 4 May (BS); MorHls (4 ad, 3 nests), 4 May (BS) and (4 ad, 2 yg), Jun/Jul (MW) and (26 birds), 8 Aug (SB, SD); Lange Road Marsh (nest), 4 May (BS); Pleasant Valley (nest) (fide BS); State Line Marsh (nest), 4 May (BS); Streets L (2 ads, nest), 4 May (BS); Lake Co: Volo Bog (2 ad, 2 yg), 12 May (BS); Redwing Slough (2 ads, nest), 3 May (BS); Fairfield Marsh (ad, nest), 3 May (BS); Chain-O-Lakes SP (Lake Co) (12 ads, 8-9 nests), 3 May (BS); Round L Marsh (ad, nest), 3 May (BS); Deer L FP (likely nested), 5 Jul (EW); Wauconda (pr at nest), 20 May (SG); Cook Co: Spring Creek Valley FP (Cook Co) (nest), 4 May (BS); Kane Co: Blackberry Marsh (ad on nest), 4 May (BS); Nelson L Marsh (3 ads, 2 nests), 4 May (BS); Du Page Co: Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co) (pr and nest), 4 May (BS); Grundy Co: GooseLPr (likely nesting), 22 May (EW) & 4 Jun (JH). Other records: RichardsonFdn, 7 Jun (AR); EngrM (2 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); Blk-crwnM (2 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); Richmond (McHenry Co) (ad), 4 May (BS); IBSP (3 ad), 3 May (BS); L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co) (ad), 5 Jul (RC).

Laughing Gull. Up to four of this species were present on or near Lake Michigan in June 1999. This second year bird was observed at Chicago's Olive Park on 12 June 1999. Photo by Eric Walters.

Laughing Gull at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. Lake Co. 19 June 1999. Photo by Eric Walters.

Killdeer

Nesting: nw Kane Co, (very successful year) (RAM); Spfld (yg), 2 May thru 11 Jul (HDB); Baldwin L (St. Clair Co) (nest), 5 May (SB). MC: 600 & 300, Carl.L, 18 & 13 Jul, resp. (DK); 400, Stump L (Jersey Co), 24 Jul (KM); 290, HL, 24 Jul (KM); 208, Spfld, 23 Jul (HDB); 135, La Salle L, 25 Jul (C&JM); 87, Monroe Levee, 5 Jul (DK); 36, Yale BBS, 12 Jun (RC); 30, LCal, 19 Jun (WM); 26, Heyworth (McLean Co), 14 Jun (MF); 24, Carl.L, 29 Jun (DK).

Black-necked Stilt

Nesting: E. Cape Girardeau (Alexander Co) (2 nests), 20 Jun-10 Jul (RSM) and (2 ad pr & 4 yg), 17 Jul (RSM). MC: 11, E. Cape Girardeau (Alexander Co), 24 Jun (FB). See an article in this issue for more information.

Lesser Yellowlegs

NBSO: E. Cape Girardeau (Alexander Co) (1, 7, 37), 14, 20 & 24 Jun, resp. (FB).

Spotted Sandpiper

Nesting: Rainbow Beach (Cook Co) (4 eggs), 17 Jun (DFS); Chi (Hyde L Wetland) (newly hatched juv), 17 Jul (WM); LCal (2 broods), 3 Jul (WS); Sangamon Co (3 locations: Buckhart, Sang.L & Berlin), 11 Jul, 13 Jul & 18 Jul, resp. (HDB). MC: 14, Spfld, 17 Jul (HDB); 11, LCal, 19 Jun (WM). Others: Hamilton Reservoir (n Cook Co) (2 ad), Jun/Jul (CF); JP, 13 Jun & 7 Jul (KC fide PC).

Upland Sandpiper

Nesting: Coles Co airport (pr w/ 3 yg), 22 Jun (SB); PrRdg (3 successful broods), Jun-Jul (JWW, EK). MC: 13, PrRdg, 24 Jun (JWW). Others: MidewinPR (3), 19 Jun (RP et al.); e McLean Co (pr), 4 Jul (MR); se Livingston Co, 16 Jun (VK); e Iroquois Co (2), 17 Jun (VK); Savoy (Champaign Co) (pr on territory), 23 Apr-20 Jun (RC, m.ob.); nc Hancock Co (2), 3 Jun (VM); e Jasper Co, 28 Jul (LH). Nachusa: did not return for the 1st time in many years (AH).

Common Snipe

RichardsonFdn, May-24 Jun (AR); HoffmnEst, 10 Jul (AA); LCal, 3 Jul (WS); GooseLPr (2), 28 Jun (JH).

American Woodcock

Nesting: Christopher (Franklin Co) (4 eggs), 4 May (LS). Others: Nachusa (pr), 3 Jun (AH); IBSP (6), 30 May (SD, SB); MacArthurWds, 15 Jun (SD et al); HoffmnEst (2), 10 Jul (AA); Chi (Powder Horn L) (2), 17 Jun (DFS); Chi (Hyde L Wetland) (2), 26 Jun (WM); Spfld, 9 Jul (HDB).

Laughing Gull

NBSO: GrtLakes (ad & 3rd summer), 31 May-11 Jul & 31 May-10 Jun, resp. (EW); Chi (Navy Pier) (ad), 12 Jun (EW); se Chi (Kentucky Fried Chicken parking lot) (ad), 26 Jun-31

Jul+ (WM, m.ob.)–presumably same individual returning to this site for 3rd consecutive summer.

Franklin's Gull
NBSO: Spfld, 3-14 Jun (HDB).

Little Gull
NBSO: GrtLakes (1st summer), 25 Jun-20 Jul (EW, m.ob.). Article to come in next issue.

Bonaparte's Gull
NBSO: MC: 113, GrtLakes, 31 May (EW)–from 60 to 80 (including 1 ad) could be found at GrtLakes thru Jun and early Jul, then reduced to 10 by 22 Jul and zero by Aug (EW).

Bonaparte's Gull at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. Lake Co. 19 June 1999. One of up to 83 present in June. Photo by Eric Walters.

Ring-billed Gull
Nesting colonies: LCal (5008 nests w/ eggs), 29 May (JMk et al. fide WM); Chi (Navy Pier–new colony) (606 nests, most w/ yg), 12 Jun (EW et al.); Wauk (175 nests), 28 May (fide EW). 1st juv away from nesting colony: Evanston, 16 Jun (EW) and Rainbow Beach (Cook Co), 17 Jun (DFS). MC (prior to arrival of juv): 2700, Evanston, 18 Jun (EW); 61, Calhoun Co, 24 Jul (KM). Others: Spfld (40 subad), thru Jun (HDB); Carl.L (12), 7-8 Jul (KM).

Herring Gull
Nesting colonies: LCal (19 nests w/ eggs), 29 May (JMk et al. fide WM); e of Montrose (new colony) (18 nests), 12 Jun (EW et al.); Wauk (new colony) (5 nests), 28 May (fide EW); Chi (Navy Pier–new colony) (3 nests), 12 Jun (EW et al). Others: Spfld (subad), Spfld, 1-11 Jun (HDB).

Lesser Black-backed Gull
NBSO: GrtLakes & Foss P (Lake Co) (3rd-year bird), 15-26 Jun (EW, DFS).

Caspian Tern
NBSO: MC: 22, LCal area, 2 Jun (DFS) and "up to 4" present all summer (WM); 12, GrtLakes, 31 May-25 Jun (EW). Others: Rainbow Beach (Cook Co) (4-9), Jun (DFS); Chi (North Beach), 18 Jun (DFS); Chi (Grant P) (4), 21 Jun (DFS); sw Union Co (12), 24 Jun (DFS).

Common Tern
Nesting: Wauk (Commonwealth Edison Plant) (50 birds–pre-nesting behavior), 15-25 Jun, (active "nesting" behavior), 19 Jul, then (site abandoned–reason unknown, with egg clutches and dead newly hatched yg still present), 23 Jul (DD). NBSO: GrtLakes (subad & 2 ad), 10 Jun-5 Jul & 10 Jun-16 Jul, resp. followed by up to 5 (ad) by 20 Jul and 17 (ad) and 2 (subad) by 22 Jul (EW).

Forster's Tern
GrtLakes (subad), 15 Jun, increasing to 15 (11 ad & 4 subad), 9 Jul (EW).

Molting first-summer Lesser Black-baked Gull at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. Lake Co. 19 June 1999. Photo by Eric Walters.

Little Gull with two Bonaparte's Gulls in various plumages. The Little Gull in the far right is just beginning its molt from first summer to second winter. For more about this rarity, see an article in a future issue of Meadowlark. Also see Field Notes in this issue. Photo by Eric Walters, who discovered and identified this bird.

Least Tern
Nesting: w Alexander Co (18 ad, at least 2 fresh nests w/ eggs), 30 Jul and (yg), 17 Aug (BL); sw Jackson Co (technically in Missouri) (25 ad and 2 nests w/ 3 eggs each), 4 Aug and (yg), 17 Aug (BL); sw Pope Co (technically on Cottonwood Bar–a Kentucky island) (7 or more nests), 16 Jun (JSc).

Black Tern
Nesting: Stickney Run (McHenry Co) (4 ad, 2 nests w/ eggs), Jun/Jul (MW); Wauconda (Broberg Marsh, Lake Co) (40, nests present), Jun/Jul (MW, RK). Others: Blk-crwnM (2 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); MacDonald Wds FP (Lake Co) (2), 23 Jun (SH).

Rock Dove
Nesting: Evanston (nest), **23 Jan** (EW).

BAND-TAILED PIGEON
Second IL Record: n DeWitt County (ad), 13-18 Jul (*DB). See article and photo in this sissue.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE
Swansea (St. Clair Co), 15 Jun-10 Jul (DK); sw Union Co (2), 24 Jun (DFS); n Pulaski Co (2), 28-31 Jul+ (FB–video); Metropolis (Massac Co) (2), 14-15 Jun (FB).

Mourning Dove
MC: 212, Monroe Levee, 5 Jul (DK); 114, Spfld, 29 Jul (HDB); 62, White Co, 22 Jun (VK); 55, Hancock Co, 3 Jun (VK); 50, Yale BBS, 12 Jun (RC); 49, Monticello BBS, 5 Jun (RC); 40, Madison Co, 19 Jun (KM). **Survey results**: 1999 surveys (both IDNR and BBS routes) indicate that the Mourning Dove population declined, depending on the survey, by 8.5% (BBS) to 29% (IDNR) statewide since 1998 (LD).

Monk Parakeet
Cook Co nests: Rainbow Beach (10 ad, 3 nests), Jun (DFS); JP (breeding), Jun-Jul (PC); Calumet P (2 nests), Jun/Jul (DFS); Chi (Wolf L) (2 huge, but inactive, nests), 18 & 31 Jul (WM); Burnham (7 nests, 13 birds), 18 Jul (WM). Others: Chi (Wolf L) (2-3), 30 Jun (DFS); LCal (4), 10 Jul (DFS).

Black-billed Cuckoo
Shab.L, 26 Jun (DJS); MaxMc (male), 24 Jun (RAM); IBSP (2), 19 Jun (SH, JhM); Paul Douglas FP (Cook Co), 19 Jun (CF); Chinquapin Bluffs Nature Preserve (Woodford Co) (2-5), 5 Jul-1 Aug (MF); sw Champaign Co, 4 Jun (RC). This species' "...continued decline should be giving a conservation alarm." (RAM); "...low around Chicago..." (DFS).

Common Tern from the breeding colony in Waukegan at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, where it would feed. 25 June 1999. Photo by Eric Walters.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Nesting: Spfld (yg), 19 Jul & 3 Aug (HDB). MC: 26, s Pope Co, 9 Jun (VK); 16, sw Pulaski Co, 10 Jun (VK, CH); 15, Oconee (Shelby Co), 2 Jul (SB); 15, St. Elmo (Fayette Co), 30 Jun (SB); 14, s Johnson Co, 11 Jun (VK); 12, Spfld, 5 Jun (HDB); 11, e White Co, 22 Jun (VK); 10, Elkville (Jackson Co), 3 Jun (SB); 10, Edwards (Peoria Co), 8 Jul (SB); 7, s Menard Co, 18 Jun (VK); 6, Knuppel Wds NA (Mason Co), 8 Jun (TL); 3-6, Chinquapin Bluffs Nature Preserve (Woodford Co), 5 Jul-1 Aug (MF); 5, Shab.L, 28 Jun (DJS); 5, Yale BBS, 12 Jun (RC); 5, Madison Co, 19 Jun (KM); 3, Carl.L, 8 Jun (DK). Others: Lake Forest (Lake Co) (pr), 1 Jun (RP); Mettler Wds NA (DeWitt Co) (2), 9 Jun (TL); W.B. Wallace Wds NA (Mason Co) (2), 3 Jun (TL). None encountered at MaxMc or nw Kane Co this year–another "...species of conservation concern." (RAM); "...low around Chicago..." (DFS).

Barn Owl
Nesting: Dongola (2 nesting prs, one w/ yg), 8-27 May (SB); Perks (Pulaski Co) (2 yg), 12 Jun (SB et al.). Others: c Marion Co, 11 Jun (TE); se Union Co (3), 4 Jul (DK).

Eastern Screech-Owl
Nesting: Homer (Vermilion Co) (successful nest in yard), Mar-Jun (JOS). Others: Carl.L (4), 28 Jun (DK).

Barred Owl
Nesting: Homer (Vermilion Co) (2 successful nests on one farm) (JOS); Elkville (Jackson Co) (yg), 2-3 Jun (SB). MC: 4, Spfld, 6 Jul (HDB). Others: Plum Creek FP (Cook Co) (territory), 8-15 May (EW).

Short-eared Owl
Eddyville (Pope Co), mid-Jun (MR)

Northern Saw-whet Owl
Normal (McLean Co) (ad), 7-24 Jun (*EM).

Common Nighthawk
Nesting: Carbondale (Jackson Co) (nest w/ 2 eggs on ground along railroad tracks near "downtown"), 7-17 Jun (VL fide RSM). MC: 6, Spfld, 5 Jun & 20 Jul (HDB). Others: SandRdg (13 territories), 26 Jun (RBj). "Poor numbers this summer." (KM).

Chuck-will's-widow
SandRdg–despite serious searches the entire season, thru 31 Jul, no breeding birds detected at all this year; first absence since survey began in 1975 (RBj).

Whip-poor-will
MC: SandRdg (161 territories), 26 Jun (RBj); 6, se Kankakee Co, 10 Jul (DFS). Others: Sangamon Co (1 & 2), 13 Jun & 8 Jul, resp. (HDB); Nachusa (male), 19 Jun (AH); IBSP (4), 30 May (SB, SD). Scarce throughout state.

Caspian Tern at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center. Lake Co. 25 June 1999. Up to 12 were present here in late June.

Chimney Swift
MC: 125, Spfld, 2 Jun (HDB); 100, LCal, 2 Jun (DFS); 100, HL, 19 Jun (KM).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Nesting: IBSP (female incubating), 17-28 May (JSo, DJ); Palos (Swallow Cliffs FP) (female incubating), 8 Jul (DFS); Christopher L (Franklin Co) (5 nests), 29-31 May (LS). MC: 3, Spfld, 5 & 13 Jun and 30 Jul (HDB); 3, Carl.L, 18 Jun (DK). "Poor numbers this summer." (KM). Scarce in n & ne IL (m.ob.).

Belted Kingfisher
Nesting: Spfld (yg), 8 Jul (HDB). MC: 5, Spfld, 13 & 27 Jul (HDB).

Red-headed Woodpecker
Nesting: GrtLakes (at least 1 yg), Jun/Jul (EW); Robinson Wds FP (Cook Co) (nesting), 26 Jun (AA). MC: 17, se Kankakee Co, 19 Jun (DFS); 11, Monroe Levee, 5 Jul (DK); 10, West Salem (Edwards Co), 24-25 Jun (SB); 10, Yale BBS, 12 Jun (RC); 8, Pere Marquette SP (Jersey Co), 11 Jul (KM). Numbers continue to decline.

Red-bellied Woodpecker
MC: 35, s Pope Co, 9 Jun (VK); 28, Palos, 3 Jun (DFS); 25, s Johnson Co, 11 Jun (VK); 21, e White Co, 22 Jun (VK); 21, West Salem (Edwards Co), 25 Jun (SB); 20, sw Pulaski Co, 10 Jun (VK, CH); 18, s Menard Co, 18 Jun (VK); 16, Yale BBS, 12 Jun (RC).

Downy Woodpecker
MC: 25, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS); 22, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 12, DeerGW, 26 Jun (CF); 12, West Salem (Edwards Co), 25 Jun (SB); 11, Spfld, 5 Jul (HDB); 11, Oconee (Shelby Co), 2 Jul (SB).

Hairy Woodpecker
MC: 10, Palos, 18 Jun (DFS); 7, DeerGW, 26 Jun (CF); 6, Wauconda (Lake Co), 18 Jul (SB).

Northern Flicker
MC: 11, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS); 10, Spfld, 25 Jul (HDB).

Pileated Woodpecker
Nesting: Spfld (yg), 9 Jul (HDB). Others: Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co) (2), 23 Jun (RC); Elkville (Jackson Co) (2 pr), 25 Jun (SB).

Eastern Wood-Pewee
MC: 37, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS); 20, DeerGW, 26 Jun (CF); 18, Spfld, 5 Jun (HDB); 14 (males), Oconee (Shelby Co), 2 Jul (SB); 13, West Salem (Edwards Co), 25 Jun (SB); 11, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 10, MacArthurWds, 15 Jun (SD); 8, Busse Wds FP (Cook Co), 25 Jun (AA); 8, Wauconda (Lake Co), 18 Jul (SB); 8 (males), M.Arb., Jun-Jul (MBC); 8, s Pope County, 9 Jun (VK); 7, Mackinaw FWA (Tazewell Co), 27 Jun (MF). Others: Mettler Wds NA (DeWitt Co) (5), 9 & 22 Jun (TL); W.B. Wallace Wds NA (Mason Co) (5), 3 Jun (TL); Duck Soup Wds NA (Mason Co) (4), 2 Jun (TL); Knuppel Wds NA (Mason Co) (3), 8 Jun (TL); Flora BBS (5), 6 Jun (RC). "Lower than normal numbers encountered on the MaxMc. Appears to be a multi-year decline at this location." (RAM).

Acadian Flycatcher
Nesting: West Salem (Edwards Co) (female on nest), 24 Jun (SB). MC: 48 (males), Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co), 23 Jun (RC); 16 (12 males, 3 females, 1 yg), Oconee (Shelby Co), 2 Jul (SB); 16 (12 males, 4 females), West Salem (Edwards Co), 25 Jun (SB); 12 (2 prs w/ 1 yg + 6 males), St. Elmo (Fayette Co), 30 Jun (SB); 12 (males) Christopher L (Franklin Co), 29-31 May (LS); 8+, Elkville (Jackson Co), 2-3 Jun (SB); 8, Mackinaw FWA (Tazewell Co), 27 Jun (MF); 4, Silver Springs SP (Kendall Co), 3 Jul (DJS). Others: Captain Daniel Wright FP (Lake Co), 6 Jun (SH); DeerGW, 25 Jun (CF); Palos (McClaughry Springs) (2), 3 Jun (DFS); Palos (Redgate Wds) (2), 8 Jul (DFS); Palos (Saganashkee Slough), 18 Jun (DFS); Mettler Wds NA (DeWitt Co) (2), 9 Jun (TL). Homer (Vermilion Co) "...numbers way down, only 1 singing found on farm..." (JOS); declining in Sangamon Co (HDB).

Alder Flycatcher
Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co) (male), 1 Jul (DW); Lyons Wds (Lake Co) (male), 26 Jun (DFS) and 5-16 Jul (EW).

Willow Flycatcher
Nesting: Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co) (nest w/ 4 recently hatched yg), 16 Jul (EW); HoffmnEst (2 pr feeding yg), 10 Jul (AA). MC: 10 (6 males), LCal, 19 Jun (WM); 9 (males), HoffmnEst, 20 Jun (AA); 6, Stickney Run (McHenry Co), Jun/Jul (MW); 6, Blk-crwnM, Jun/Jul (MW); 6 (males), Ron Beese P (Cook Co), 1 Jun (AA); 5 (males), Matteson (Cook Co), 27-28 Jul (SB); 5, MidFk FP, 20 Jun (RC). Others: Nachusa (4 males), 28 May-21 Jul (AH); Shab.L, 6 & 26 Jun and 18 Jul (DJS); s De Kalb Co, 25 Jul (DJS); MaxMc (only 2-3 prs compared to usual 6+ prs), Jun/Jul (RAM); MorHls (3+), Jun/Jul (MW); EngrM (2), Jun/Jul (MW); Wauconda (4), Jun/Jul (MW); Chi (Eggers Wds) (4), Jun/Jul (MW); Silver Springs SP (Kendall Co), 20 Jun (DJS); Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co), 25 Jun (DJS); Marseilles (2 males), 14 Jun (C&JM); Spfld (4), 22 & 28 Jul (HDB); Madison Co (3), 16 Jun (DK); Bush (Williamson Co) (3 males), 3-4 Jun (SB); n Pulaski Co (1-2), 27 Jun-31 Aug (FB).

Least Flycatcher
Nesting: Glacial P (McHenry Co) (2 prs nesting), mid-Jun (MW). Others: RichardsonFdn (2 prs), May-25 Jul (AR); HoffmnEst (2 males), 20 Jun (AA).

Eastern Phoebe
Nesting: Mississippi Palisades SP (Carroll Co) (nest w/ 3 yg), Jun (DFS); Chain-O-Lakes SP (Lake Co) (nest w/ 4 yg), 12 Jun (DFS); Lenzburg (St. Clair Co) (pr w/ 4 recently fledged yg), 18 Jul (TM).

Great Crested Flycatcher
Nesting: Marseilles (pr feeding nestlings), 8 Jun (C&JM); Spfld (yg), 18 Jun (HDB). MC: 26, Palos, 3 Jun (DFS); 12, Elkville (Jackson Co), 3 Jun (SB); 11, Wauconda (Lake Co), 18 Jul (SB); 11, Spfld, 5 Jun & 13 Jul (HDB); 9, Jersey Co, 11 Jul (KM); 8, Mettler Wds NA (DeWitt Co), 9 Jun (TL); 9, Spfld, 11 Jul (HDB); 7, Duck Soup Wds NA (Mason Co), 2 Jun (TL); 7, s Pope Co, 9 Jun (VK); 4, DeerGW, 26 Jun (CF); 4, DeerGE, 3 Jun (CF). Others: "Population declining on the MaxMc for unknown reasons.

TROPICAL/COUCH'S KINGBIRD
Maeystown Road (Monroe Co), 3 Jun (DK–photos)–**FIRST IL RECORD**. See *Meadowlark* Vol. 8.4 for an account of this occurrence.

Western Kingbird
Nesting: Spfld (3 ad), 24 May-12 Jul (3 yg fledged on latter date) (HDB), see article in this issue for details; Granite City (Madison Co) (2 nests on powerlines, photographed), 6 & 12 Jun and 1st fledglings (4) noted 3 Jul (FH). MC: 7, Granite City (Madison Co), 29 Jun (KM). Others: sw Jackson Co (really on Missouri land that occurs in Jackson Co on the east side of the Mississippi R), 20 Jun (RSM), Middle Fork State FWA (Vermilion Co.), 3 Jul (SD,SB).

Eastern Kingbird
Nesting: Marseilles (pr feeding nestlings), 14 Jun (C&JM); PrRdg (2 nests), Jun-Jul (JWW, EK). MC: 22, Spfld, 3 Jul (HDB); 11, Monroe Levee, 2 Jul (DK); 10, se Kankakee Co, 19 Jun (DFS); 8, Shab.L, 23 Jul (DJS); 8, s De Kalb Co, 25 Jul (DJS).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Prairie du Rocher (Randolph Co), 5 Jul (DK).

Loggerhead Shrike
Nesting: Spfld (pr w/ 1 yg), 18 Jul (HDB); PrRdg (19 nests), Apr-Jun (JWW, EK); West Salem (Edwards Co) (3 yg), 18-25 Jun (SB); Cardondale airport (Jackson Co) (ad feeding 2 yg), 8 Aug (CF); E. Cape Girardeau (pr w/ 3 yg), late May-early Jul (MR, m.ob). MC: 29, PrRdg, 9 Jul (JWW). Others: Moultrie Co (3), 5 Jul (RC); Flora BBS (3), 6 Jun (RC); c Marion Co (pr), 11 Jun (TE); Hoyleton (Washington Co), 10 Jun (DK); Waterloo (Monroe Co), 18 Jun (DK); Bond Co (1-2), 28 Jun-27 Jul (DK); Clinton Co (5 locations), 10 Jun-15 Jul (DK); Fayette Co, 3 Jul (DK); Johnson Co (5), 30 Jun (KM).

White-eyed Vireo
MC: 12, s Pope Co, 9 Jun (VK); 7 (males), Herrin (Williamson Co), 3 Jun (SB). Others: Rockford (3), 6 Jun (DW); Palos (Swallow Cliffs FP) (2), 3 Jun (DFS); Marseilles, 14 Jun-8 Jul (C&JM); Edwards (Peoria Co), 8 Jul (SB); Spfld (1-3), 3 Jun thru 4 Aug (HDB); Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co) (3 males), 23 Jun (RC); Carl.L (2 locations), 10 Jun-13 Jul (DK); Madison Co, 19 Jun (KM).

Bell's Vireo
Nesting: Kennekuk Cove P (Vermilion Co.), (pr nest building), 3 Jul (SD, SB), Urbana (nest building), 31 May (RC); PrRdg (nest), Jun (EK fide JWW). MC: 8, GreenR, 6 Jun (C&JM); 7, Herrin (Williamson Co), 3 Jun (SB); 6, Lenzburg (St. Clair Co), 10-11 Jun (SB). Others: Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co), 9 Jul (DJS); MidewinPr (2), 19 Jun (RP et al.); se Kankakee Co, (3), 19 Jun (DFS); Matthiessen SP (La Salle Co) (male, 19 Jun-5 Jul (C&JM); Kirkwood (Warren Co), 20-21 Jul (SB); Moraine View SP (McLean Co) (pr), Jun/Jul (MR); Plymouth (Hancock Co) (4 males), 21 Jul (SB); Urbana, 6 Jun-25 Jul (ER); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (3 males), 3 Jul (RC); Spfld (3), 13 & 14 Jun and 23 Jul (HDB); Jewett (Cumberland Co) (male), 29 Jun (SB); Mt. Vernon (Jefferson Co) (2 males), 8-9 Jun (SB); Carl.L (2), 19 Jun (DK); HL, 19 Jun (KM); Chain of Rocks (Madison Co), 11 Jul (FH); Sauget (St. Clair Co) (2), 25 Jun (KM). Nachusa: none reported this year.

Yellow-throated Vireo
MC: 10, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS); 6, Spfld, 5 Jun (HDB). Others: LdnMlr (3 males), 20 Jun (SD, SB); DeerGW (3), 26 Jun (CF); DeerGE (2), 3 Jun (CF); w Grundy Co, 4 Jul (C&JM); Marseilles, 8 Jul (C&JM); Matthiessen SP (La Salle Co) (male), 19-27 Jun (C&JM); Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co) (4 males), 23 Jun (RC). "Poor numbers this year." (KM).

Blue-headed Vireo
LdnMlr, 20 Jun (SD, SB).

Warbling Vireo
Nesting: Castle Rock SP (Ogle Co) (ad on nest), 20 Jun (SD, SB). MC: 26, LCal area, 2 Jun (DFS); 20, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 13, s Pope Co, 9 Jun (VK); 11, Spfld, 15 Jun (HDB); 11, e White Co, 22 Jun (VK); 6, Edgebrook Country Club (De Kalb Co), 11 Jul (DJS); 6 (males), Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co), 23 Jun (RC).

Red-eyed Vireo
Nesting: Palos (ad incubating), 20 May (DFS). MC: 40+ (males), Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co), 23 Jun (RC); 31, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS); 26, DeerGW, 26 Jun (CF); 16 (15 males), Edwards (Peoria Co), 8 Jul (SB); 15 (males), Dorance P (Rock Island Co), 16 Jul (SB); 13 (males), Busse Wds FP (Cook Co), 25 Jun (AA); 12, MacArthurWds, 15 Jun (SD); 10 (males), Wauconda (Lake Co), 18 Jul (SB); 9 (males), M.Arb, Jun-Jul (MBC); 6, LdnMlr, 20 Jun (SD, SB); 6, Mackinaw FWA, 27 Jun (MF).

Blue Jay
MC: 64, Wauconda (Lake Co), 18 Jul (SB); 46, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS); 24, Flora BBS, 6 Jun (RC); 21, Spfld, 15 Jun (HDB); 18, se Kankakee Co, 19 Jun (DFS).

American Crow
MC: 80, Menard Co, 18 Jun (VK); 76, Fairland BBS, 4 Jun (RC); 60, St. Clair Co, 1 Jul (KM); 52, w Livingston Co, 15 Jun (VK); 48, s Livingston Co, 16 Jun (VK); 46, Hancock Co, 3 Jun (VK); 40, Spfld, 1 & 15 Jun (HDB).

Fish Crow
Jersey Co (3), 11 Jul (KM); **Carl.L**, 19 Jun & (2), 13 Jul (DK); Monroe Levee, 24 Jun (DK); Elkville (Jackson Co) (inland record), 15 Apr-3 Jun (SB).

Horned Lark
MC: 159, Fairland BBS, 4 Jun (RC); 48, Spfld, 17 Jul (HDB); 43, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 38, Clinton Co, 10 Jun (DK).

Purple Martin
Nesting: Evanston (18 nests), Jun/Jul (EW). MC: 475, Carl.L, 16 Jul (DK); 185, Monroe/Randolph Cos, 19 Jul (KM); 150, Harrisonville (Monroe Co), 31 Jul (DK); 82, Keyesport (Clinton Co), 19 Jun (DK).

Tree Swallow
MC: 127, Carl.L, 19 Jun (DK); 55 (+ 3 nests w/ yg), LCal area, 17 Jun (DFS); 26, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM). None found nesting in Sangamon Co this year.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow
MC: 84, Monroe Levee, 2 Jul (DK); 80, Jersey Co, 11 Jul (KM); 25, Evanston, 25 Jul (fide EW).

Bank Swallow
Nesting: IBSP (50 nesting holes), 30 Jun (DJ); Wauk (Commonwealth Edison Plant) (125+ nesting holes), 30 Jun (DD); Evanston (10+ nest holes), 22 Jun (EW); Beverly L FP (Cook Co) (118 nest holes), 20 Jun (AA); LCal (105 nest holes), 19 Jun (WM); Oswego (Kendall Co) (220 nest holes, 350 ad), 27 Jun (DFS); Dallas City (Henderson Co) (250 nest holes, 37 ad banded), 3 Jun (VK); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (178 nest holes–later destroyed by excavation), 31 May (RC); c Cass Co (300 nest holes), 17 Jul (VK); Springfield (holes present), 1 Jul (HDB); s Bond Co (holes present), 18 Jun (SB); Prairie du Rocher (Randolph Co) (25 nest holes), 18 Jun (DK). MC: 250, GLNRC, 17 Jul (KM); 155, Calhoun Co, 24 Jul (KM); 100, HL, 19 Jun (KM).

Cliff Swallow
Nesting: Ogle Co (nests w/ 10 ad), Jun (DFS); GrtLakes (40+ nests), 19 Jun (EW); JP (16 nests), 1 Jun (PC); Palos (Saganashkee Slough) (4 nests), 7 Jun (WS); New Millbrook Bridge (De Kalb Co) (5 nests), 10 Jul (DJS); Millbrook (Kendall Co) (2 nests), 5 Jul (DFS); L Bloomington (McLean Co) (130 nests at three sites), 6 Jul (DB fide MF); Evergreen L (McLean Co) (14 nests), 6 Jul (DB fide MF); se Kankakee Co, (18+ nests, 50 ad), 19 Jun (DFS); Homer L (Champaign Co) (8 nests), Jun-Jul (fide EC); Sang.L (yg), 6 Jul (HDB); Billett (Lawrence Co) (30+ nests), 3 Jul (LH); Rend L (Franklin Co) (100+ nests), 17 Jun (LS); Chester (Randolph Co) (500 prs–4 sites), 11 Jun (SB); Kaskaskia R (Randolph Co) (300+ nests), 30 Jun (DK). MC: 250+, Pomona, 4 Jul (DK); 55, Carl.L, 28 Jun (DK). Others: IBSP, 6 Jun (DFS); e Grundy Co (6), 3 Jun (DFS); Carl.L (40), 8 Jul (KM).

Barn Swallow
MC: 117, Monroe Levee, 2 Jul (DK); 100, Monroe Co, 19 Jul (KM); 93, Spfld, 28 Jul (HDB); 74, s Johnson Co, 11 Jun (VK); 63, LCal area, 2 Jun (DFS).

Black-capped Chickadee
MC: 43, Palos, 8 Jul (DFS); 41, DeerGW, 26 Jun (CF).

Carolina Chickadee
Madison Co (6), 19 Jun (KM); Monroe Co (6), 7 Jun (KM); Carl.L (Fayette Co) (4), 3 Jul (DK)–this the only chickadee species thus far encounterd in Fayette Co (fide DK).

Tufted Titmouse
MC: 31, Yale BBS, 12 Jun (RC); 28, s Pope Co, 9 Jun (VK); 24, sw Pulaski Co, 10 Jun (VK, CH); 22, West Salem (Edwards Co), 25 Jun (SB); 19, s Menard Co, 18 Jun (VK); 17, Oconee (Shelby Co), 2 Jul (SB); 14, Spfld, 5 & 10 Jun (HDB); 14, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 14, s Johnson Co, 11 Jun (VK); 9, Palos, 3 Jun (DFS).

Red-breasted Nuthatch
Nesting: SandRdg (family group of 4), 10-14 Aug (SB). Others: RichardsonFdn (pr), 1 Jul (AR); MacArthurWds, 15 Jun (SD).

White-breasted Nuthatch
MC: 22, DeerGW, 26 Jun (CF); 21, Palos, 18 Jun (DFS); 17, St. Elmo (Fayette Co), 30 Jun (SB); 16, Oconee (Shelby Co), 2 Jul (SB); 15, Wauconda (Lake Co), 18 Jul (SB); 14, Spfld, 10 Jun (HDB).

Brown Creeper
Palos (Swallow Cliffs FP) (pr + male), 8 Jul (DFS); Vermilion Co (male), 10 Jul (DFS); Spfld, Aug (HDB); Pere Marquette SP (Jersey Co), 11 Jul (KM).

Carolina Wren
MC: 27, s Pope Co, 9 Jun (VK); 21, e White Co, 22 Jun (VK); 17, sw Pulaski Co, 10 Jun (VK, CH); 16, s Johnson Co, 11 Jun (VK); 10, West Salem (Edwards Co), 25 Jun (SB); 9, s Menard Co, 18 Jun (VK); Others: Montrose (1-2), 11-15 Jul (JL). "Numbers [in c IL] down from past few years." (HDB, RC).

Bewick's Wren
Janesville (Cumberland Co) (male), 23 Jun (RC).

House Wren
MC: 100+, Monroe Levee, 4 Jul (HDB); 56, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS); 30, Spfld, 15 Jun (HDB); 20 (14 males, 1 female, pr w/ 3 yg), Atkinson (Henry Co), 15 Jul (SB); 19, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 18, Flora BBS, 6 Jun (RC); 17, s Menard Co, 18 Jun (VK); 16 (males), Mahomet (Champaign Co), 7 Jul (SB); 15 (males), Morrison (Whiteside Co), 22 Jul (SB); 14, se Kankakee Co, 19 Jun (DFS). Others: "More singing than I've ever heard before in summer in ne IL towns along L Michigan." (EW).

Sedge Wren
MC: 100+, RichardsonFdn, Jun-Jul (AR); 15, MidewinPr, 27 May (JH); 14, MidFk FP, 31 Jul (RC); 13 (males), Matthiessen SP (La Salle Co), 30 Jul (C&JM); 12 (males), Nachusa, 14 Jul (AH); 9 (males), Carl.L (subimpoundment #2), 19 Jun (DK); 8, GooseLPr, 18 Jul (KM); 6, Fayette Co, 3 Jul (DK); 6 & 4, Shab.L, 26 Jun & 29 Jul, resp. (DJS); 5, GreenR, 3-6 Jun (C&JM); 4 (males), DeerGE, 12-26 Jun (AA, CF); 4, s De Kalb Co, 25 Jul (DJS). Others: Chain-O-Lakes SP (Lake Co) (4), 6 Jun (DFS); IBSP (2 males), 30 May (SD, SB); Montrose (2 males then 1), 19 Jun-14 Jul and 15-24 Jul, resp. (JL); Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co) (3 males), 19 Jun (AA); Poplar Creek FP (Cook Co) (2 males), 20 Jun (AA); Silver Springs SP (Kendall Co) (2), 30 May (DFS); Nelson L (Kane Co) (2), 31 May (DFS); Atkinson (Henry Co) (2 males), 14-15 Jul (SB); 6 (5

males, 1 female), Rice L, late Jul-14 Aug (SB et al.); w Adams Co (4 prs), Jun/Jul (MW); Monroe Levee (3 males), 3 Jun (DK); late in arriving or absent from traditional Sangamon Co locations (HDB).

Marsh Wren
Nesting: Stickney Run (McHenry Co) (6 ad, 4 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); Blk-crwnM (6 ad, 4 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); Wauconda (Lake Co) (6 ad, 2 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); Chi (Hyde L Wetland) (6 eggs), 5 Jun (WM). MC: 26 & 23 (males), HoffmnEst, 10 Jul & 20 Jun, resp. (AA); 20+, LCal, Jun/Jul (MW); 15+, Chi (Eggers Wds), Jun/Jul (MW); 15, Chi (Hyde L Wetland), 13 & 26 Jun (WM); 10+, Lake Villa (Lake Co), Jun/Jul (MW); 10, Fulton Marsh (Whiteside Co), Jun/Jul (MW); 10, EngrM, Jun/Jul (MW); 10, DesPlWetlands, Jun/Jul (MW); 10, DeerGE, Jun/Jul (CF); 10 (males), IBSP, 30 May (SD, SB); 8 (6 males, 2 females), Orland P (Cook Co), 27 Jul (SB); 8, Wilkinson Renwick Marsh (De Kalb Co), 24 Jul (DJS); MorHls (8 ad), Jun/Jul (MW). Others: GreenR (3), 6 Jun (C&JM); Garden Prairie Slough (Boone Co) (6), Jun/Jul (MW); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (4 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); Round L (Lake Co) (6 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); Deer L FP (Lake Co) (territories), 5 Jul (EW); Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co) (3), 9 Jul (DJS); GooseLPr (3), 28 Jun (JH).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Nesting: MorHls (2 families of 4), 12 Jun (AA); Marseilles (pr feeding yg in nest), 14 Jun (C&JM); Christopher (Franklin Co) (ad feeding 2 yg), 11 Jul (LS); Elkville (Jackson Co) (2), 2-3 Jun (SB). MC: 20+ prs, Elkville (Jackson Co), 2-3 Jun (SB); 20+ (including juv), Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co), 23 Jun (RC); 6+ prs, nw Stephenson Co, Jun/Jul (SB); 10, IBSP, 6 Jun (DFS); 7, Jersey Co, 11 Jul (KM); 5, HoffmnEst, 20 Jun (AA); 5, Silver Springs SP (Kendall Co), 20 Jun (DJS); 4, Spfld, 5 Jun (HDB).

Eastern Bluebird
Nesting: Barrington Hills (looking in box), 8 May (AA); Orland P (Cook Co) (looking in box), 16 May (AA). Excellent breeding season throughout state according to information from IL Bluebird Project data.

Veery
Nesting: Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co) (fledgling), 16 Jul (EW). MC: 8, Palos (Swallow Cliffs FP), 3 Jun (DFS); 5 (males), LdnMlr, 20 Jun (SD, SB); 4, IBSP, 6 Jun (DFS). Others: IBSP (2), 30 Jun (DJ); MacArthurWds (2), 15 Jun (SD); DeerGW (2), 26 Jun (CF); DeerGE, 3 Jun (CF); Spring Creek Valley FP (Cook Co), (male), 9 Jul (EW); Palos (Redgate Wds) (3), 8 Jul (DFS); Chi (Eggers Wds), 13 Jul (DFS).

Wood Thrush
Nesting: M.Arb (4 males), Jun-Jul and (2 juv), 16 Jul (MBC). MC: 18, Palos, 18 Jun (DFS); 17 (3 prs. + 9 males), Wauconda (Lake Co), 18 Jul (SB); 14 (males), Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co), 23 Jun (RC). Others: LdnMlr, 20 Jun (SD, SB); MaxMc (3-4 territories: fewer than usual) (RAM); MacArthurWds (8), 15 Jun (SD); DeerGW (10), 26 Jun (CF); DeerGE, 3 Jun (CF); JP (1), 18 Jul–1st summer occurrence at JP since 1950 (PC); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (7), 7 Jul (SB); Sangamon Co (small numbers at five sites), Jun/Jul (HDB). Except for Palos, only scattered and isolated reports from Cook Co this year (AA et al.).

American Robin
MC: 166, Flora BBS, 6 Jun (RC); 162, Yale BBS, 12 Jun (RC); 121, LCal area, 2 Jun (DFS); 103, e White Co, 22 Jun (VK); 91, Clinton Co, 10 Jun (DK); 90, Spfld, 15 Jun (HDB); 84, e Iroquois Co, 17 Jun (VK); 70, s Menard Co, 18 Jun (VK).

Gray Catbird
Nesting: LdnMlr (nest w/ 4 eggs), 20 Jun (SD, SB). MC: 28, HoffmnEst, 10 Jul (AA); 27, LCal area, 17 Jun (DFS); 18, se Kankakee Co, 19 Jun (DFS); 13, Spfld, 12 Jul (HDB).

Northern Mockingbird
MC: 18, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 18, Madison Co, 19 Jun (KM); 15, Flora BBS, 6 Jun (RC); 13, s Johnson Co, 11 Jun (VK); 10, se Kankakee Co, 19 Jun (DFS); 7, Collinsville (Madison Co), 16 Jun (DK). Others: JP, 6 Jun (PC); LCal (ad), 19 Jun (WM); Richard Mautino Preserve (Bureau Co) (2), 6 Aug (DJS).

Brown Thrasher
MC: 15, Spfld, 2 Jun (HDB); 13, Flora BBS, 6 Jun (RC).

European Starling
MC: 1360 (roost), LCal, 19 Jun (WM); 202, Flora BBS, 6 Jun (RC); 165, se Kankakee Co, 19 Jun (DFS); 150, DeerGE, 14 Jun (CF).

Cedar Waxwing
Nesting: Spfld (3 yg), 5 Jul (HDB); PrRdg (2 nests), Jun-Jul (JWW, EK); Christopher (Franklin Co) (5 nests), 29-31 May (LS). MC: 56, LCal area, 17 Jun (DFS); 27 (mostly paired and nesting), HoffmnEst, 20 Jun (AA); 13, Spfld, 26 Jul (HDB); 12, GrtLakes, 17 Jul (KM). Sporadic distribution in small numbers throughout the state.

Blue-winged Warbler
Nesting: Lyons Wds (Lake Co) (2), 6 Jun (DFS) and (pr w/ food for yg), 5 Jul (EW). Others: LdnMlr (4), 3 Jun (DW); Ron Beese P (Cook Co) (male), 1 Jun (AA); HoffmnEst (male), 20 Jun (AA); Marseilles (2-3 males), 8 Jun-8 Jul (C&JM); Siloam Springs SP (Brown Co) (pr), Jun/Jul (MW); Pomona (2), 4 Jul (DK).

Northern Parula
MC: 17 (males), Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co), 23 Jun (RC); 8 (males), Sanganois CA (Mason Co), 19 Jun (RC); 8 (males), Oconee (Shelby Co), 2 Jul (SB); 6, Mackinaw FWA (Tazewell Co), 27 Jun (MF). Others: MaxMc (male), 11 & 24 Jun (MM, RAM); w Grundy Co (male), 4 Jul (C&JM); Marseilles (male), 8-14 Jun (C&JM); Siloam Springs SP (Brown Co) (pr), Jun/Jul (MW); Sangamon Co (declining numbers, only 1-2 males at five sites), 3-30 Jun (HDB).

Yellow Warbler
Nesting: MorHls (2 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); Urbana (yg in nest), 27 Jun (RC). MC: 38 & 25, LCal area, 17 Jun (DFS) & 19 Jun (WM), resp; 29, HoffmnEst, 20 Jun (AA); 10 (males), Elkville (Jackson Co), 3 Jun (SB); 10, MidFk FP, 20 Jun (RC); 8, Wauconda (Lake Co), Jun/Jul (MW); 8, Shab.L, 6 Jun (DJS); 6, Stickney Run (McHenry Co), Jun/Jul (MW); 6, Chi (Eggers Wds), Jun/Jul (MW).

Chestnut-sided Warbler
RichardsonFdn (male), 28 Jun (AR); LdnMlr (pr), 18 Jun (AR) and (4 males), 20 Jun (SD, SB); IBSP, 19 Jun (SH); Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co) (male), 19 Jun-15 Jul (EW); Palos (Cap Sauer), 11 Jun (DFS) and (Swallow Cliffs FP), thru 26 Jun (CT).

Black-throated Green Warbler
LdnMlr (male), 18 Jun (AR); MacArthurWds (male), 15 Jun (SD). NBSO: M.Arb (male), 2 Jul (MBC).

Yellow-throated Warbler
MC: 8, Mermet L, 26 Jun (DK). Others: LdnMlr (3 males, female, possibly 2 yg), 20 Jun (SD, SB); Siloam Springs SP (Brown Co) (pr), Jun/Jul (MW); Spfld (1-3 males), 5 Jun-15 Jul (HDB); nw of Ashmore (Coles Co) (male), thru 22 Jun (SB); Pere Marquette SP (Jersey Co) (2), 11 Jul (KM); Monroe Levee, 31 Jul (DK).

Pine Warbler
Nesting: SandRdg (juv-plumaged bird), 11 Aug (SB).

Cerulean Warbler
MC: 11, Pomona, 22 Jun (MR). Others: Cuba Marsh (Lake Co), 17 Jun (RP); DeerGE (male), 14 Jun (CF); Palos (2 territories), 3 Jun (DFS); Port Byron (Rock Island Co) (2 males), thru 16 Jul (SB); Marseilles (2 males), 8 Jun (C&JM); Matthiessen SP (La Salle Co) (male), 19 Jun (C&JM); Siloam Springs SP (Brown Co) (2 prs), Jun/Jul (MW); Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co) (4 males), 23 Jun (RC).

Black-and-white Warbler
Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co), 30 Jun (DW); Spfld (male), 1 Jul (HDB); Urbana (male), 23 Jun & 4 Jul (*ER).

American Redstart
Nesting: Chi (Eggers Wds) (ad feeding 2 yg), 13 Jul (DFS); w Grundy Co (pr feeding yg), 4 Jul (C&JM). MC: 33, Pomona, 4 Jul

(DK); 15 (males), Castle Rock SP (Ogle Co), 20 Jun (SD, SB); 7 (males), IBSP, 6 Jun (DFS); 6 (males), e Kankakee Co, 19 Jun (DFS). Others: MorHls (4 ad), Jun/Jul (MW); IBSP (4), 19 Jun (SH); M.Arb (male), 14 Jun (MBC); Spfld (male), 10 Jun & 21 Jul (HDB).

Prothonotary Warbler
Nesting: MorHls (2 prs nesting), 12 Jun (AA); MidFk FP (nesting), Jun (fide EC); Elkville (Jackson Co) (6+ prs w/ ad feeding yg), 2-3 Jun (SB); Cache River Watershed (25 study sites in 3 counties–1300 nest boxes) (200 prs of color-marked birds were followed in 420 nesting attempts; 303 yg banded), Apr-Jul (JHo). MC: 10, Jersey Co, 11 Jul (KM); 10, Monroe Levee, 4 Jul (HDB); 9, Spfld, 13 Jul (HDB); 9, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 7 (males), Sanganois CA (Mason Co), 19 Jun (RC). Others: MidFk FP (2 males), 13 & 20 Jun (RC); Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co) (2 males), 23 Jun (RC); Duck Soup Wds NA (Mason Co) (2), 2 Jun (TL).

Worm-eating Warbler
MC: 7, Pomona, 27 Jun (DK). Others: Siloam Springs SP (Brown Co) (pr), Jun/Jul (WM); Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co) (3 males), 23 Jun (RC).

Swainson's Warbler
Reported as "heard" in Pope County, however, not substantiated; apparently absent again this year as a breeding species.

Ovenbird
Nesting: Wauconda (Lake Co) (female feeding cowbird in nest), 17 Jul (SB); Busse Wds FP (Cook Co) (ad and yg), 25 Jun (AA). MC: 27 (males), DeerGW, 26 Jun (CF); 13, MacArthurWds, 15 Jun (SD); 11 (including above), Busse Wds FP (Cook Co), 25 Jun (AA); 10 (males); LdnMlr, 20 Jun (SD, SB); 6, Mackinaw FWA (Tazewell Co), 27 Jun (MF). Others: LdnMlr (11 prs), 18 Jun (AR); Chevalier Wds FP (Cook Co) (pr), 3 Jun (AA); M.Arb (male), 18 Jun-2 Jul (MBC); Marseilles, 8 Jul (C&JM); SandRdg (2), 3 Jul (KM); W.B. Wallace Wds NA (Mason Co) (2), 3 Jun (TL); Duck Soup Wds NA (Mason Co), 2 Jun (TL); Knuppel Wds NA (Mason Co) (3), 8 Jun (TL); Siloam Springs SP (Brown Co) (pr), Jun/Jul (MW); Spfld (male), 5 & 14 Jun (HDB); Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co) (4 males), 23 Jun (RC); Ashmore (Coles Co) (3 males), 22 Jun (SB); Oconee (Shelby Co) (male), 2 Jul (SB).

Louisiana Waterthrush
Castle Rock SP (Ogle Co) (male), 20 Jun (SD, SB); Edwards (Peoria Co) (pr), 7-8 Jul (SB); Mackinaw FWA (Tazewell Co) (2), 27 Jun (MF); Summum (Fulton Co) (pr), 8-9 Jul (SB); Canton (Fulton Co), 8 Jul (SB); Oconee (Shelby Co) (pr + 2), 2 Jul (SB); Ashmore (Coles Co) (pr), 15 & 22 Jun (SB); St. Elmo (Fayette Co) (pr), 30 Jun (SB).

Kentucky Warbler
MC: 12, Pomona, 27 Jun (DK); 11 (males), Oconee (Shelby Co), 2 Jul (SB); 8 (males), Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co), 23 Jun (RC). Others: LdnMlr (3 prs), 18 Jun (AR); Moraine View SP (McLean Co) (male), Jun/Jul (MR); Palos (Palos P Wds FP), 3-17 Jun (CT); Edwards (Peoria Co) (5–2 males and pr w/ yg), 7-8 Jul (SB); Siloam Springs SP (Brown Co) (pr), Jun/Jul (MW); Spfld (4), 4 Jun (HDB); St. Elmo (Fayette Co) (pr w/ yg), 30 Jun (SB).

Mourning Warbler
NBSO: MorHls (male), 15-30 Jun (MW).

Common Yellowthroat
Nesting: Evanston (pr w/ 2 grown yg), 12 Aug (EW); PrRdg (2 nests), May (JWW, EK). MC: 100+, Monroe Levee, 4 Jul (HDB); 39, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 29, HoffmnEst, 20 Jun (AA); 30, GooseLPr, 28 Jun (JH); 20, Yale BBS, 12 Jun (RC); 17, Kidd L, 12 Jun (SB); 16, Spfld, 3 Jul (HDB); 16, s Pope Co, 9 Jun (VK); 15, Palos, 3 Jun (DFS); 15, s Johnson Co, 11 Jun (VK); 15, sw Pulaski Co, 10 Jun (VK, CH); 14, Clinton Co, 10 Jun (DK); 13 (males), DeerGE, 3 Jun (CF); 10 (males), Spring Creek Valley FP (Cook Co), 9 Jul (EW); 10, Monroe Levee, 5 Jul (DK).

Hooded Warbler
LdnMlr (2 prs), 18 Jun (AR); Sugar R FP (Winnebago Co) (male), Jun-Jul (DW); MaxMc (male), 11-14 & 24 Jun (MM, RAM); MacArthurWds, 15 Jun (SD); DeerGW (male), 31 May-early Jul (CF); Palos (Saganashkee Slough & Swallow Cliffs FP) (4 males), 18 Jun and (Redgate Wds) (3 males), 8 Jul (DFS); M.Arb (2 males), 7 Jun, and 24-25 Jun (MBC).

Canada Warbler
Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co) (male), 12-16 Jul (DW); Spring L Reserve (n Cook Co) (male), 9 Jun (CF).

Yellow-breasted Chat
Nesting: HoffmnEst (pr feeding yg), 10 Jul (AA). Others: GreenR (6), 6 Jun (C&JM); Nachusa (2 males), 16 Jun-21 Jul (AH); Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co) (3), 3-26 Jun (DW); IBSP (possibly 5 prs), thru 16 Jul (EW); Lyons Wds (Lake Co) (male), 6 Jun (DFS) and (2 males), thru 16 Jul (EW); LCal (male), 8 May-19 Jun (WM); Palos (Swallow Cliffs FP) (4), 27 May-6 Jun (DFS, CT); Silver Springs SP (Kendall Co), 3 & 10 Jul (DJS); Clin L (5 males, 2 females), 10 Jul (RC); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (5), 3 Jul (RC); n Vermilion Co (7), 3 Jul (SD,SB); Jewett (Cumberland Co) (4 males), 29 Jun (SB); Flora BBS (3), 6 Jun (RC); Yale BBS (3), 12 Jun (RC); Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co) (3 males), 23 Jun (RC); Hazlet SP (Clinton Co) (5), 19 Jun (DK); Madison Co (3), 19 Jun (KM); Monroe Co (3), 7 Jun (KM); Kidd L (4), 24 Jun (DK); Mermet L (4), 26 Jun (DK); Pomona (4), 27 Jun (DK); sw Pulaski Co (12), 10 Jun (VK, CH); s Johnson Co (11), 11 Jun (VK); s Pope Co (8), 9 Jun (VK).

Summer Tanager
Lake Forest (Lake Co), 1 Jun (RP); Marseilles (1st-year male), 14 Jun (C&JM); SandRdg (2 males), 19 Jun (RC) and 3 Jul (KM); MidFk FP (2 males), 20 Jun (RC); Spfld (2 males), 5 Jul (HDB); Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site (Coles Co) (male), 23 Jun (RC); Oconee (Shelby Co) (pr), 30 Jun & 2 Jul (SB); Madison Co, 19 Jun (KM); Monroe Co (2), 7 Jun (KM); Kidd L, 24 Jun (DK); Millstadt (St. Clair Co), 29 Jun (DK).

Scarlet Tanager
MC: 20, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS); 9 (males), Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co), 23 Jun (RC); 8 (7 males, 1 female), Oconee (Shelby Co), 2 Jul (SB); 7 (males), nw Stephenson Co, 3 Aug (SB); 7 (5 males, 2 females), Woodstock (McHenry Co), 30 Jul (SB); 7, DeerGW, 26 Jun (CF); 6, MacArthurWds, 15 Jun (SD); 6 (males), M.Arb, thru 30 Jul (MBC); 4 (2 pr), Spfld, Jun (HDB); 3, Coleman Dells Nature Preserve (Winnebago Co), 27 Jun (DW); 3, Mackinaw FWA (Tazewell Co), 27 Jun (MF); 3, Mettler Wds NA (DeWitt Co), 17 Jun (TL); W.B. Wallace Wds NA (Mason Co) (3), 3 Jun (TL).

Eastern Towhee
MC: 16, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS); 12, se Kankakee Co, 19 Jun (DFS); 10, SandRdg, 3 Jul (KM); 9 (males), HoffmnEst, 20 Jun (AA); 8, Oconee (Shelby Co), 2 Jul (SB); 8, s Pope Co, 9 Jun (VK); 7, Spfld, 30 Jul (HDB); 6, Knuppel Wds NA (Mason Co), 8 Jun (TL); 6, s Johnson Co, 11 Jun (VK); 5 (males), Barrington Hills (Cook Co), 10 Jul (AA). Others: Nachusa (2 males), 15 May-10 Jul (AH).

Chipping Sparrow
Nesting: MaxMc (extremely successful) (RAM). MC: 64, Kendall Co, 9 Jun (DFS); 44, se Kankakee Co, 19 Jun (DFS); 27, Monticello BBS, 5 Jun (RC); 26, Fairland BBS, 4 Jun (RC); 22, Spfld, 12 Jun (HDB); 20, SandRdg, 3 Jul (KM).

Clay-colored Sparrow
Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co), 30 Jun (DW); Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co) (male), 19 Jun-5 Jul (EW).

Field Sparrow
Nesting: PrRdg (19 nests), May-Jul (JWW, EK). MC: 30, se Kankakee Co, 19 Jun (DFS); 30, GooseLPr, 9 Jun (JH); 26 (males), HoffmnEst, 20 Jun (AA); 21, Lenzburg (St. Clair Co), 11 Jun (SB); 19 (at least 14 males), Jewett (Cumberland Co), 29 Jun (SB); 14 (males), Poplar Creek FP (Cook Co), 20 Jun (AA); 14, Spfld, 5 Jul

(HDB); 14, Flora BBS, 6 Jun (RC); 13, Yale BBS, 12 Jun (RC); 13, s Johnson Co, 11 Jun (VK); 6, Knuppel Wds NA (Mason Co), 8 Jun (TL); 5, DeerGE, 1 Jun (CF); 12, Heron Pond NC (Johnson Co), 30 Jun (KM).

Vesper Sparrow
MC: 36, Fairland BBS, 4 Jun (RC). Others: Sangamon Co, low numbers (HDB); L Lola (Bond Co) (2 males), 18 Jun (SB).

Lark Sparrow
MC: 21, Mason Co, 7 Jun (JH). Others: Nachusa (lone male), 28 May (AH); se Kankakee Co (3), 19 Jun (DFS); SandRdg (4), 3 Jul (KM); Knuppel Wds NA (Mason Co) (3), 8 Jun (TL); Sangamon Co (more than ever–4 prs in 3 locations–and first time more than Vesper Sparrow), 5 Jun-16 Jul (HDB); sw Champaign Co, 4 Jun (RC); Ashmore (Coles Co) (male), 15 & 22 Jun (SB).

Savannah Sparrow
MC: 13, n Lake Co, 12 Jun (DFS); 13 (males), Morrison (Whiteside Co), 22 Jul (SB); 12, Urbana, 27 Jun (RC); 6, Du Page Co, 18 Jul (KM); 5 (males), Poplar Creek FP (Cook Co), 20 Jun (AA). Others: Nachusa (3 males), 28 May-19 Jun (AH); Coles Co airport (4 males), 21-22 Jun (SB).

Grasshopper Sparrow
Nesting: PrRdg (nest), May (JWW, EK). MC: 33, Flora BBS, 6 Jun (RC); 26, MidewinPr, 2 Jun; 21, Henderson Co, 24 Jun (JH); 21, Urbana, 27 Jun (RC); 19 (at least 16 males), Atkinson (Henry Co), 14-15 Jul (SB); 11, Pecatonica (Winnebago Co), Jun-Jul (DW); 10, Clinton Co, 10 Jun (DK); 9, Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co), 9 Jul (DW); 7, SandRdg, 3 Jul (KM); 7 (males), Coles Co airport, 21-22 Jun (SB); 5 (males), Oconee (Shelby Co), 30 Jun & 2 Jul (SB). Others: Nachusa (12 male territories), 28 May-21 Jul (AH); MidewinPr (3), 19 Jun (RP et al.). Two (males): Paul Douglas FP (Cook Co) (2), 19 Jun (CF); Matthiessen SP (La Salle Co), 27 Jun (DJS). Singles: Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co), 19 Jun (AA); Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co) (DJS); Waa Kee Sha P and Silver Springs SP (Kendall Co) (DJS); Matthiessen SP (La Salle Co) (ad w/ food for yg), 18 Jul (C&JM). "Good year in Champaign County." (RC).

Henslow's Sparrow
Nesting: Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co) (5 ad w/ evidence of nesting), 3 Jun-5 Jul–nesting site mowed three+ weeks in advance of contracted mowing date and habitat destroyed prior to yg fledging (DW); PrRdg (8 broods), May-Jul (JWW, EK). MC: 93 (males), PrRdg, 25 Jun and (8 broods), thru 21 Jul (JWW, EK); 44, GooseLPr, 28 Jun (JH); 21, Marion Co (3 sites), 11 Jun (JH); 15 (8 males, 3 females, 3 juv, 1 fledgling), MidFk FP, 18 Jul (RC); 14, Des Plaines CA (Will Co), 1 Jul (JH); 13, Paul Douglas FP (Cook Co), 12 Jun (CF); 12 (males), Normandy Rd (Pulaski Co), 26 Jun (DK); 11 (males), Matthiessen SP (La Salle Co), 8 Jul (C&JM); 10 (males), Pennant Bar Ranch (Johnson Co), 4 Jun (MR); 8, Palos (John J. Duffy FP), 22 Jun (CT). Others: Nachusa (4 male territories), 28 May-21 Jul (AH); Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co) (5 males), 19 Jun (AA); MidewinPr (2), 30 May (DJS) & 19 Jun (RP et al.); Des Plaines CA (Will Co) (several males), 9 Jul (BG); Silver Springs SP (Grundy Co), 20 Jun (DJS); Matthiessen SP (La Salle Co) (male), 4 Jul (C&JM); Clin.L (4 males), 10 Jul (RC); se Ford Co, (2 males), 31 Jul (RC); Rice L (4 males), late Jul-14 Aug (SB et al.); Banner Marsh (Fulton Co) (2 males), late Jul-14 Aug (SB et al.); McDonough Co (3 sites, 2-7 birds at each site), 21 Jul-9 Aug (AM); Effingham Co (2 males), 4 Jun (TE); Union Co (5), 26 Jun (KM). "...spread into Champaign Co..." (RC).

Song Sparrow
Nesting: Evanston (2 successful nests), Jun (EW). MC: 44, e White Co, 22 Jun (VK); 30, Madison Co, 19 Jun (KM); 29, LCal area, 17 Jun (DFS); 27, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 26, Flora BBS, 6 Jun (RC); 17, Spfld, 11 Jul (HDB); 13, w Adams Co, 2 Jun (VK); 12, Elkville (Jackson Co), 3 Jun (SB); 10, Monroe Levee, 5 Jul (DK).

Swamp Sparrow
Nesting: MaxMc (1 nesting pr, as expected) (RAM); Spring Creek Valley FP (Cook Co) (ad feeding yg), 9 Jul (EW); MidFk FP (3 eggs), 31 Jul (RC). MC: 6, DeerGE, 3 Jun (CF); 5, IBSP, 6 Jun (DFS). Others: Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co), 18 Jul (KM).

Northern Cardinal
MC: 44, s Pope Co, 9 Jun (VK); 42, sw Pulaski Co, 10 Jun (VK, CH); 39, s Johnson Co, 11 Jun (VK); 34, e White Co, 22 Jun (VK); 33, Yale BBS, 12 Jun (RC); 33, Monroe Co, 6 Jun (KM); 32, Madison Co, 19 Jun (KM); 31, Palos, 3 Jun (DFS); 30, Spfld, 5 Jun (HDB).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Nesting: Mississippi Palisades SP (Carroll Co) (ad feeding recently fledged yg), 15 Jun (DFS); Snyder Grove P (La Salle Co) (female on nest), 16 May (DJS); Silver Springs SP (Kendall Co) (pr and female w/ fledged yg), 1-3 Jul (DJS); Sang.L (yg), 11 Jul (HDB). MC: 16, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS); 12, Knuppel Wds NA (Mason Co), 8 Jun (TL); 8, DeerGE, 3 Jun (CF). Others: MaxMc (2 prs–fewer than usual) (RAM); Deer L FP (Lake Co) (territory), 5 Jul (EW); HoffmnEst (2 pr + male), 20 Jun (AA); Duck Soup Wds NA (Mason Co) (5), 2 Jun (TL); Oconee (Shelby Co), 2 Jul (SB); Carl.L (pr), 19 Jun (DK); Madison Co (2), 19 Jun (KM).

Blue Grosbeak
Nesting: Klehm Arboretum (Rockford) (pr building nest), 26 May (RM); SandRdg (7 birds including 1 fledgling), 10-14 Aug (SB); PrRdg (nest), Jun (JWW, EK); HL (pr feeding yg in nest), 18 Jul (FH); Lenzburg (St. Clair Co) (nest w/ 2 grosbeak & 2 cowbird eggs), 10 Jun (SB). Others: Millbrook (Kendall Co) (male), 5 Jul (DFS); se Kankakee Co (2 ad & 1 subad male), 10 Jul (DFS); Kendall Co (male), 5 Jul (DFS); Clin.L, 10 Jul (RC); Lodge (Piatt Co), 5 Jun (RC); Fairmount (Vermilion Co) (2 males), 11 Jul (RC); Mason Co, 1 Jun (JH); Flora BBS (2), 6 Jun (RC); Rose Hill (Jasper Co), 12 Jun (RC); Lawrence Co (male), 18 Jun (LH); Marion Co, 11 Jun (JH); Monroe Levee (5), 4 Jul (HDB); Monroe Co (3), 7 Jun (KM); New Athens (St. Clair Co) (4 males), 11 Jun (DK); Monroe Levee (3 females, 1 male), 3 Jun (DK); s Johnson Co (5), 11 Jun (VK).

Indigo Bunting
MC: 125, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 100+, Fox Ridge SP (Coles Co), 23 Jun (RC); 75+, Monroe Levee, 4 Jul (HDB); 61, s Pope Co, 9 Jun (VK); 51, se Kankakee Co, 19 Jun (DFS); 43, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS); 38, Spfld, 5 Jun (HDB); 26 (24 males, 2 females), Elkville (Jackson Co), 3 Jun (SB); 23, Monticello BBS, 5 Jun (RC); 22, Flora BBS, 6 Jun (RC); 22, Monroe Levee, 31 Jul (DK).

Dickcissel
Nesting: Sang.L (several yg), 28 Jul (HDB); PrRdg (48 nests), May-Jul (JWW, EK). MC: 105, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 70, Clinton Co, 10 Jun (DK); 85, nw Alexander Co and sw Union Co, 24 Jun (DFS); 42, w Adams Co, 2 Jun (VK); 41, Spfld, 12 Jun (HDB); 40, Monroe Levee, 5 Jul (DK); 33, MidewinPr, 22 Jun (JH); 22 (21 males, 1 female), near Paxton (Ford Co), 13 Jul (SB); 22, Heyworth (McLean Co), 6 Jun (MF); 20, Site M CA (Cass Co), 21 Jun (JH); 8, LCal area, 30 Jun (DFS); 6 (males), LCal, 19 Jun (WM); 5, Del Monte pea field (De Kalb Co), Jun/Jul (DJS). Others: Nachusa (3 males), 28 May-14 Jul (birds absent after 14 Jul) (AH); MaxMc (transient only) (RAM); nw Kane Co (numbers better than in past) (RAM); IBSP (4), 8 Jul (DJ).

Bobolink
MC: 400+ (ad), RichardsonFdn, May-Jul (AR); 90+ (males), Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co), 19 Jun (AA); 52, MidewinPr, 27 May (JH); 47 (6 males, others females and juv), Barrington Hills (Cook Co), 10 Jul (AA); 24, near Paxton (Ford Co), 13 Jul (SB); 11, Lake Forest (Lake Co), 22 Jun (RP); 7 (5 male, 2 female), DeerGE, 1 Jun (CF). Others: Nachusa (4 male territories), 28 May-21 Jul (AH); Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co) (6), 3-26 Jun (DW); Lake Forest (Lake Co) (9 males), 1 Jun (RP); Poplar Creek FP (Cook Co) (4 males), 20 Jun (AA); HoffmnEst (2 pr), 10 Jul (AA); Matthiessen SP (La Salle Co)

(male), 25 Jul (C&JM); Sangamon Co (1-2 males), 5 Jun-3 Jul (HDB); Homer (Vermilion Co) (4 males), May-Jun (JOS); PrRdg (2 males), 11 Jun (LH). Fewer birds, but nesting in several new nw Kane Co locations (RAM).

Red-winged Blackbird
Nesting: PrRdg (70 nests), Apr-Jul (JWW, EK). MC: 837, Clinton Co, 10 Jun (DK); 494, Yale BBS, 12 Jun (RC); 268, Flora BBS, 6 Jun (RC); 255, c Hancock Co, 3 Jun (VK); 220, w Adams Co, 2 Jun (VK); 191, Monticello BBS, 5 Jun (RC); 179, e Iroquois Co, 17 Jun (VK); 175, LCal area, 17 Jun (DFS).

Eastern Meadowlark
Nesting: PrRdg (94 nests), Apr-Jul (JWW, EK). MC: 50+, Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co), 19 Jun (AA); 44 (including several family groups), Atkinson (Henry Co), 15 Jul (SB); 42, GooseLPr, 3 Jun (DFS); 42, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 30, Clinton Co, 10 Jun (DK); 25, Spfld, 5 Jun (HDB); 24 (14 males, 10 others), near Paxton (Ford Co), 13 Jul (SB); 23, e White Co, 22 Jun (VK); 19, Monroe Levee, 5 Jul (DK).

Western Meadowlark
MC: 11 (5 singing males), Morrison (Whiteside Co), 22 Jul (SB); 7, Kendall Co, 9 Jun (DFS). Others: near L Le-Aqua-Na SP (Stephenson Co) (3), 6 Aug (SB); nw Kane Co (none: first absence in recent memory) (RAM); sw Sangamon Co (male), 7 Jul (HDB); nw Vermilion Co (male), Jun/Jul (SB); s Vermilion Co (male), Jun/Jul (SB).

Yellow-headed Blackbird
Nesting: Fulton Marsh (Whiteside Co) (22 ad, 3 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); Stickney Run (McHenry Co) (25 ad, 17 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); MorHls (16 ad, 11 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); EngrM (32 ad, 9 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); Blk-crwnM (17 ad, 13 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); Almond L (Lake Co) (15 ad, 7 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); DesPlWetlands (5 ad, 10 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); Wauconda (Broberg Marsh, Lake Co) (36 ad, 8 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); Round L Marsh (Lake Co) (6 ad, 1 nest), Jun/Jul (MW); Round L (Lake Co) (9 ad, 3 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); LCal (14 ad, 8 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); Chi (Eggers Wds) (15 ad, 11 nests), Jun/Jul (MW); Burnidge FP (Kane Co) (2 territories w/ yg), 3 Jul (RAM). Others: Lake Villa (Lake Co) (2 ad), Jun/Jul (MW). Special Project: Banded 102 birds and had 43 birds return that had been banded last year (MW).

Brewer's Blackbird
Wauk, 6 Jun (DFS); IBSP (4), 10 Jul (SH).

Common Grackle
MC: 513, Clinton Co, 10 Jun (DK); 245, Monticello BBS, 5 Jun (RC); 210, Yale BBS, 12 Jun (RC); 125, LCal area, 17 Jun (DFS).

Brown-headed Cowbird
MC: 40+, HoffmnEst, 20 Jun (AA); 31, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS). In Sangamon Co, yg hosted by Indigo Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Northern Cardinal and Song Sparrow (HDB).

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE
Fulton Marsh (Whiteside Co) (ad male), 31 May (*MW).

Orchard Oriole
Nesting: MaxMc (3 territories, as in past 10 years; yg present) (RAM); HoffmnEst (2 family groups w/ 3 yg each), 10 Jul (AA); Marseilles (male at nest), 8 Jun (C&JM); Spfld (yg), 12 Jul (HDB); Sesser (Franklin Co) (female on nest), 8 Jun (SB). MC: 16, Yale BBS, 12 Jun (RC); 13, Monroe Co, 7 Jun (KM); 8 & 5, Monroe Levee, 5 Jul & 24 Jun, resp. (DK): 7 (pr + 5 yg), Atkinson (Henry Co), 15 Jul (SB); 6, Carl.L, 28 Jun (DK); 5, Spfld, 9 Jun (HDB). Others: Byron FP (Ogle Co) (2 males), 20 Jun (SD, SB); Shab.L (pr), 29 Jul (DJS); Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co) (pr), 9 Jul (DJS); Palos (Saganashkee Slough) (pr), 18 Jun (DFS); LCal (male), 30 Jun (DFS); Matthiessen SP (La Salle Co) (pr), 19-27 Jun (C&JM).

Baltimore Oriole
Nesting: MaxMc (normal numbers, but fledglings later than usual suggesting early nest failures) (RAM). MC: 38, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS); 10, Spfld, 11 Jul (HDB); 7, DeerGE, 3 Jun (CF); 7, Oconee (Shelby Co), 2 Jul (SB). .

House Finch
Homer (Vermilion Co) (up to 20 at feeders daily), Jun-Jul (JOS); Spfld (21), 1 Jul (HDB).

American Goldfinch
Nesting: Matteson (Cook Co) (female at nest w/ 3 eggs), 28 Jul (SB); PrRdg (nest), Jul (EK fide JWW). MC: 64, LCal, 19 Jun (WM); 36+, HoffmnEst, 10 Jul (AA); 29, se Kankakee Co, 19 Jun (DFS).

House Sparrow
MC: 272, Yale BBS, 12 Jun (RC); 187, Monticello BBS, 5 Jun (RC).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Nesting: Clin L (ad carrying food), 28 Jun (MR). MC: 40, Stump L (Jersey Co), 24 Jul (KM); 20+ (including juv), Rice L, 18 Jul (RC). Others: HL (8), 17 Jun (KM).

EXOTICS:

Ringed Turtle-Dove
Nesting: Chi (Lincoln P Zoo) (6 fledglings from 4 attempted nests), Jun-Jul (RR, NB).

Late spring or early fall migrant? This Semipalmated Sandpiper was recorded on 25 June 1999 at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Lake Co. Photographer Eric Walters suggests it was a late spring straggler.

ADDENDA:
BREEDING SEASON 1998:

Northern Saw-whet Owl: SandRdg, pr w/ food at nest cavity (an old flicker hole), May/Jun 1998 (fide SB).

Brewer's Blackbird: 1998 nest, IBSP (4 yg ready to fledge), 27 Jun (EW).

SPRING 1999
LATE DEPARTURES:

The following migrant departure dates from Jun 1999 should be inserted as addenda to the 1999 Spring Migration Field Notes:

Red-breasted Merganser: 3 Jun, Spfld (HDB).

Greater Yellowlegs: 4 Jun, Buckhart (Sangamon Co) (HDB).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 4 Jun, Buckhart (Sangamon Co) (HDB).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 13 Jun (3), Spfld (HDB); 13 Jun (9), Montrose (JL).

Least Sandpiper: 9 Jun, Spfld (HDB).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 17 Jun, Spfld (HDB).

Bonaparte's Gull: 3 Jun (subad), Spfld (HDB).

Caspian Tern: 24 Jun (12), E. Cape Girardeau (Alexander Co) (DFS); 15 Jun (3), Spfld (HDB).
Common Tern: 2 Jun (3), Buckhart (Sangamon Co) (HDB).
Forster's Tern: 24 Jun, E. Cape Girardeau (Alexander Co) (DFS); 17 Jun, Montrose (JL); 3 Jun (2), Spfld (HDB).
Black Tern: 24 Jun (6 ad), E. Cape Girardeau (Alexander Co) (DFS).
Black-billed Cuckoo: 4 Jun, Spfld (HDB).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 8 Jun, Montrose (JL).
Alder Flycatcher: 6 Jun, GreenR (C&JM).
Willow Flycatcher: 21 Jun, Montrose (JL).
Least Flycatcher: 6 Jun, Montrose (JL).
Northern Mockingbird: 8 Jun, Montrose (JL).
Black-throated Green Warbler: **24 Jun** (male), Montrose (JL).
Blackburnian Warbler: 5 Jun, Palos (McClaughry Springs FP) (CT).
Black-and-white Warbler: 8 Jun, Montrose (JL).
American Redstart: 12 Jun (male), JP (PC).
Ovenbird: 10 Jun, Montrose (JL).
Canada Warbler: 5 Jun, Montrose (JL).
Savannah Sparrow: 13 Jun, Montrose (JL).
Dark-eyed Junco: **4 Jun**, DeerGE (*CF).
Indigo Bunting: 15 Jun (male), Montrose (JL).
Bobolink: 4 Jun (male), JP (JR).
Eastern Meadowlark: **24 Jun**, Montrose (JL).

-- Vernon Kleen
Natural Heritage Division
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
524 S. 2nd Street
Springfield, IL 62701-1787

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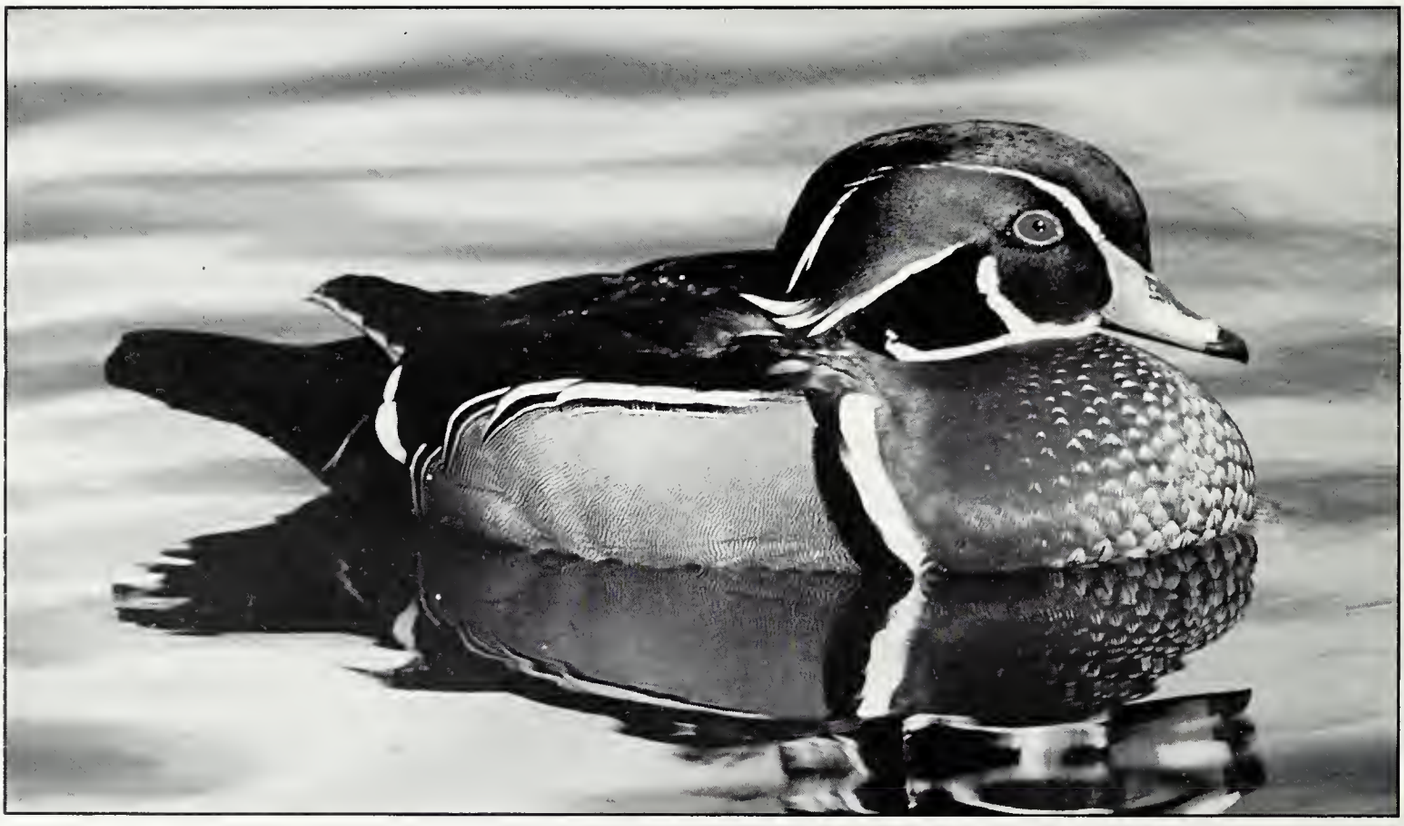

Drake Wood Duck in breeding plumage recorded at Washington Park in Springfield, IL on 6 January 2000. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.